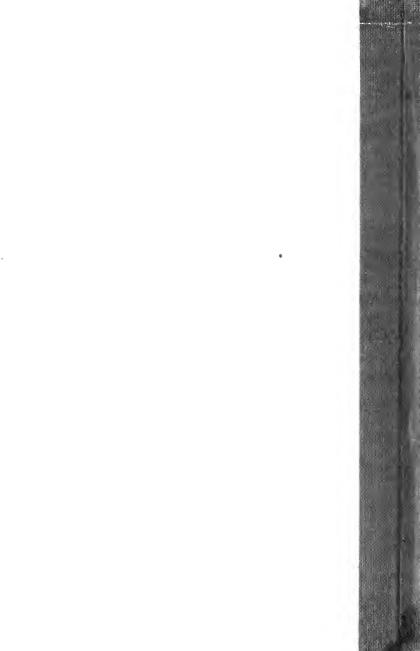
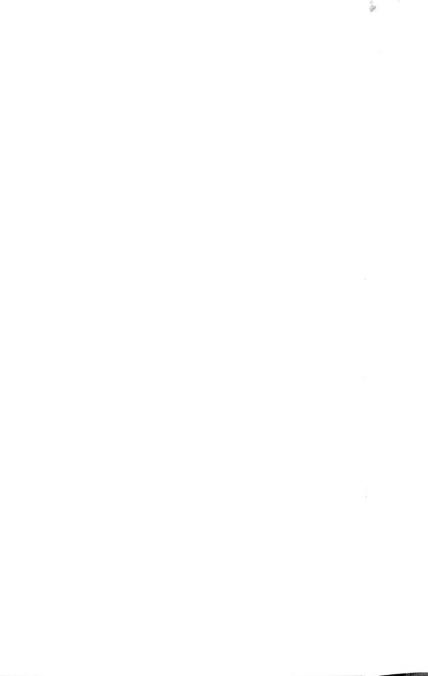
Vancouver historical journal.

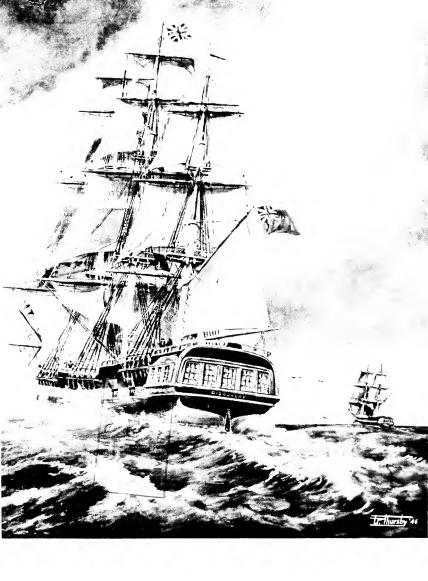
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### COVER - HER MAJESTY'S SHIP "DISCOVERY"

H.M.S. "Discovery," Captain George Vancouver, R.N., accompanied by H.M.S. "Chatham," Lieutenant William Robert Broughton, R.N., departed from Gravesend, England, 1791. The purpose was to try to discover a water way by which ships could pass from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic.

A painting by Thursby.

# VANCOUVER HISTORICAL JOURNAL

136

Published by the

ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER

CITY HALL

VANCOUVER, CANADA

Secretary

Major J. S. Matthews, V.D.

January

1958



# CITY ARCHIVES CITY HALL VANCOUVER

Initiated, in a private home, May, 1931.

Instituted, Temporary City Hall, 13 June 1933.

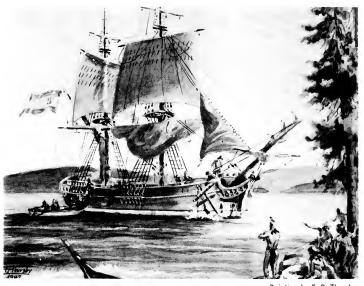
Incorporated as a society, new City Hall, 1948.

The City Archives, Vancouver, assumes the task of the preservation and custody of the historical records and relics of the City of Vancouver, and surrounding communities of North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond, and, in a lesser degree, Squamish, Gibsons, and Port Moody. It is accommodated in the City Hall, and has never made a charge for its services in any respect. It is supported by an annual civic grant. Its staff, at present, is four persons.

Its treasure consists of a mass of historical papers and pictures—one hundred thousand or more pertaining to Greater Vancouver and vicinity, and recording the achievements of our people, past and present. At some time in some way it has rendered service to almost every public department, educational institution, historian, journalist, business firm, newspaper, and to countless students, individually or in groups.

No printed medium has hitherto existed by which the story of the Citizens of Vancouver and environs could be conveyed from locked cabinets and cupboards to readers in their homes and offices.

The "VANCOUVER HISTORICAL JOURNAL" is an attempt to provide a medium. The cost of this endeavor has been defrayed from private funds; future issues can be expected provided its readers subscribe the expense.



Painting by F. P. Thursby.

## THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST EUROPEAN TO SEE THE SITE OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER, 1791

"For Skomishoath it was doom: For Western Canada the break of morn."

The Spanish explorer Pilot Commander Jose Maria Narvaez, in the "Santa Saturina," casts anchor off Point Grey.

### The Squamish Twilight

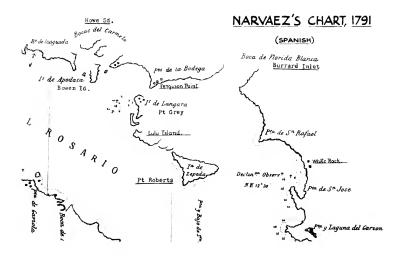
The Indian sages on Burrard Inlet had long warned that, some day,

something would happen.

For acons our land had lain in motionless repose; a silent thing, an empty space, hidden beneath an interminable green carpet of forest, dark, damp, still, spreading on and beyond. Sko-mish-oath, i.e., all Howe Sound and Burrard Inlet, was the country of the Squamish nation; three to five thousand "canoe Indians"; the greatest natural carpenters in North America, who had, since the dawn of time, lived, loved and laughed, even as we, in huge warm lodges of cedar; built with stone hammers and stone chisels. They divided themselves into chiefs, nobles, commons and slaves; fattened on flesh, fowl, fish and fruit; made garments from skins and cedar bark; held festivals and ceremonies, and sometimes went to war. A kindly Godfearing people, wise in their unlettered way, changeless, unvarying, who acknowledged a Great Architect, observed a moral code and passed down proudly, father to son by word of mouth, the legend of the race. Their world was small, but there were lots of tales of what was behind the mountains beyond the setting sun. Without written calendar, they kept time by cycles of seven years; something fateful always happened in the seventh year; once it was the great snow which lasted for three months, another the great flood, another the pestilence, and—this was the seventh year. Suddenly the sages were right—all ended; for Skomish-oath it was doom; for western Canada the break of morn.

### The Alarm

One brilliant day, whilst Squamish mothers were drying fish for winter before Eyalmu Village-we call it Jericho Beach now-and Indian babes were trickling sand through tiny fingers, loud calls broke the summer calm; shouts which were to echo around the world; shouts whose import would yet be felt by all nations; a phantom ship came drifting from behind Point Grey into English Bay. It was so large that, to the Squamish watchers, it seemed as if a small island with three dead trees on it (schooner with bare masts) had broken loose from its fastening beneath the sea, and was floating off; it stopped outside Pookcha, the great shoal we call Spanish Banks. Actually, the Spanish schooner Santa Saturnina was a tiny vessel, not much larger than a tug, but to the Squamish she was a leviathan; imagination had not conceived anything so huge. The fond mothers snatched the children, gathered together a little food and prepared to seek safety in the depths of the Kitsilano forest until danger was past; those wicked marauding northerners might be up to mischief again. The young braves cried, "Let's go see; you only die once," and launched their canoes; from a near but discreet distance they scanned the biggest canoe they had ever seen—and the queerest. The brown-faced Squamish pondered; there were men on board with ghastly white faces covered with hair; surely it must be the dead coming back.



#### DISCOVERY OF THE FRASER RIVER, 1791

The Spanish navigator Narvaez discovered the Fraser River and named it Rio Blancha. Without aid, his chart is difficult to understand, but it indicates that Narvaez visited Lake Terrell, three miles inland near Bellingham, then saw the Indian village of Semiahmoo at White Rock, proceeded by Indian trail on foot to the Fraser River opposite New Westminster, returned to his ship anchored in Boundary Bay, proceeded north and anchored twice at Point Grey, explored the North Arm in his small boats, entered English Bay and saw the Indian village of Eyalmu at Jericho, approached Siwash Rock, saw the Indian village of Homulchesun at Capilano Creek, and sailing north, passed another village near Point Atkinson, probably at Cypress Creek.





Painting by John Innes presented to the Citizens of Vancouver by Imperial Oil Limited, 1955.

## THE BOATS OF CAPTAIN VANCOUVER ENTER BURRARD'S CANAL, 13 JUNE, 1792

Accompanied by friendly natives in dug-out canoes, the two boats passed inwards through the First Narrows about noon on the 13th June, and, having satisfied themselves there was no channel leading to the Atlantic Ocean in that direction, slept on the beach near loco, B.C. and passed outwards early next morning. They were the first Europeans to enter Vancouver Harbour.

Captain Vancouver did not see the Fraser River. The two small islands at the entrance to "Burrard's Canal" are Stanley Park and Deadmans Island.

## NON-EXISTENCE OF ANY WATER COMMUNICATION HETWEEN OPPOSITE SIDES OF AMERICA

Discovery Norther Sound Alor fiel

Dar Sir.

We arrowed here the day month at in high health and opens to have my proby letermined the none caise tonce of any water commune ation between these of the apposed sade of there we within the timede of sar on wedge how beyond at dont or dropen to home here leaped no farter to tention on this ham coplene not dont line but the two map respecting these trouborses must have been settled as affected thought of time for every to to have arrowed by whome we might be relieved and proceed in any route toward old toyland

And believe Sam with sincere wishes for the paper of your oily M. Saper of Family yours with great with yours with great with yours with great with your ship

"Discovery, Nootka Sound October 2nd 1794.

"Dear Sir:-

... "We arrived here this day month all in high health and spirits having TRULY DETERMINED the nonexistence of any water communication between this and the opposite side of America within the bounds of our investigation beyond all doubt or disputation, hence I expect no further detention in this hemisphere, not doubting the business respecting these territories must have been settled a sufficient length of time for a vessel to have arrived by whom we might be relieved and proceed on our route towards Old England...

"And believe I am with sincere wishes for the happiness of yourself,

Mr. Sykes and family.

"Yours with great truth and friendship "GEO. VANCOUVER."

THE ABOVE IS PART OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY CAPTAIN VANCOUVER. THE ORIGINAL WAS PRESENTED TO THE CITY ARCHIVES BY MRS. JONATHAN ROGERS OF VANCOUVER.

## THE NAMING OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1858

### by

### HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA, THE GOOD

Letter, Her Majesty to Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, Colonial Secretary.

"OSBORNE, Isle of Wight, 24th July, 1858.

"The Queen has received Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton's letter. If the name of New Caledonia is objected to as being already borne by another colony or island claimed by the French, it may be better to give the new colony west of the Rocky Mountains another name. New Hanover, New Cornwall and New Georgia appear from the maps to be the names of subdivisions of that country, but do not appear on all maps. The only name which is given to the whole territory in every map the Queen has consulted is "Columbia," but as there exists also a Columbia in South America, and the citizens of the United States call their country also Columbia, at least in poetry, "British Columbia" might be, in the Queen's opinion, the best name."



### VICTORIA, THE GOOD

On the 23rd May 1887, the eve of the Good Queen's birthday, and in the Golden Jubilee year of her reign, the first trans-Canada train, Montreal to Vancouver, reached this city. At long last Canada was whole from sea to sea, and the "ALL RED ROUTE" around the world made possible. The locomotive was decorated with flowers and legends. This portrait, now in the City Archives, adorned the headlight. The Canadian Pacific Railway presented the locomotive, No. "374," to the citizens of Vancouver, who placed it in Kitsilano Beach Park.

### THE NAMING OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

# AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

HIS EXCELLENCY JAMES DOUGLAS, GOVERNOR, PROCLAIMS

THE COLONY

OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

REVOCATION OF LICENSE TO

H U D S O N ' S B A Y C O M P A N Y

TO EXCLUSIVE TRADING WITH INDIANS

ENGLISH LAW IN FORCE
IN
BRITISH COLUMBIA

~~~~

INDEMNIFICATION OF GOVERNOR

FOR

ACTS DONE WITHOUT AUTHORITY



# **PROCLAMATION**

By His Excellency, JAMES DOUGLAS, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Colony of British Columbia and its Dependencies,

HEREAS, by an Act of Parliament made and passed in the Session of Parliament held in the 21st and 22d years of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, Chapter XCIX, entitled an "Act to Provide for the Government of British Columbia."

And Whereas, it is amongst other things provided that the said Act be formally proclaimed within the said Colony of British Columbia.

Therefore, I, JAMES DOUGLAS, Governor of the said Colony, now proclaim and publish the said Act for the information and guidance of all Her Majesty's Subjects, and others whom it may concern, as follows:

# Victoriæ Reginæ.

### CAP. XCIX.

# An Act to provide for the Government of British Columbia. [2d August, 1858.]

WHEREAS divers of Her Majesty's Subjects and others have, by the Licence and Consent of Her Majesty, resorted to and settled on certain wild and unoccupied Territories on the North-West Coast of North America, commonly known by the Designation of New Caledonia, and from and after the passing of this Act to be named British Columbia, and the Islands adjacent, for Mining and other purposes; and it is desirable to make some temporary Provision for the Civil Government of such Territories, until permanent Settlements shall be thereupon established, and the Number of Colonists increased. Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same as follows:

B underics of Butlish Colum-\*,::. I. British Columbia shall, for the purposes of this Act, be held to comprise all such Territories within the Dominions of Her Majesty as are bounded to the South by the Frontier of the United States of America, to the East by the main Chain of the Rocky Mountains, to the North by Simpson's River, and the Finlay Branch of the Peace River, and to the West by the Pacific Ocean, and shall include Queen Charlotte's Island, and all other Island's adjacent to the said Territories, except as hereinafter excepted.

Her Majesty by Order in Council may make or provide for the making of flaws for the favernmentof Her Majesty's Subjects and others in Britsak Columbia

II. It shall be lawful for Her Majesty, by any Order or Orders to be by Her from Time to Time made, with the Advice of Her Privy Council, to make, ordain, and establish, and (subject to such Conditions or Restrictions as to Her shall seem meet) to authorize and empower such Officer as she may from Time to Time appoint as Governor of British Columbia, to make Provision for the Administration of Justice therein, and generally to make, ordain, and establish all such Laws, Institutions, and Ordinances as may be necessary for the Peace, Order, and good government of Her Majesty's Subjects and others therein; provided that

all such Orders in Council, and all Laws and Ordinances so to be made as aforesaid, shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament as soon as conveniently may be after the making and Enactment thereof respectively.

Provided always, That it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, so Her Majesty stablish soon as She may deem it convenient, by any such Order in Council as aforesaid, to constitute or to authorize and empower such Officer to constitute a Legislature to make Laws for the Peace, Order, and good Government of British Columbia, such Legislature to consist of the Governor and a Council, or Council and Assembly, to be composed of such and so many Persons, and to be appointed or elected in such Manner and in for such Periods, and subject to such Regulations, as to Her Majesty may seem expedient.

a local Legis-lature in Brit-

And whereas an Act was passed in the Forty-third Year of King Certain Provis-George the Third, intituled An Act for extending the Jurisdiction of the second Courts of Justice in the Provinces of Lower and Upper Canada to the care and Courts of Page 19 Courts of Lower and Upper Canada to the care and Courts of Lower and Upper Canada to the care and Courts of Lower and Upper Canada to the care and Courts of Lower and Upper Canada to the care and Courts of Lower and Upper Canada to the care and Courts of Lower and Upper Canada to the care and Courts of Lower and Upper Canada to the care and Courts of Lower and Upper Canada to the care and Courts of Lower and Upper Canada to the care and Courts of Lower and Upper Canada to the care and Courts of Lower and Upper Canada to the care and Courts of Lower and Upper Canada to the care and Courts of Lower and Upper Canada to the care and Courts of Lower and Upper Canada to the care and Courts of Lower and Upper Canada to the care and Courts of Courts of Lower and Upper Canada to the care and Courts of Courts Trial and Punishment of Persons guilty of Crimes and Offences within lumbia certain parts of North America adjoining to the said Provinces: And whereas by an Act passed in the Second Year of King George the Fourth, intituled An Act for regulating the Fur Trade, and establishing a Criminal and Civil Jurisdiction within certain Parts of North America, it was enacted, that from and after the passing of that Act the Court of Judicature then existing or which might be thereafter established in the Province of Upper Canada should have the same Civil Jurisdiction, Power, and Authority, within the Indian Territories and other Parts of America not within the Limits of either of the Provinces of Lower or Upper Canada or of any Civil Government of the United States, as the said Courts had or were invested with within the Limits of the said Provinces of Lower or Upper Canada respectively, and that every Contract, Agreement, Debt, Liability, and Demand made, entered into, incurred, or arising within the said Indian Territories and other Parts of America, and every Wrong and Injury to the Person or to Property, committed or done within the same, should be and be deemed to be of the same Nature, and be cognizable and be tried in the same Manner, and subject to the same Consequences in all respects, as if the same had been made, entered into, incurred, arisen, committed, or done within the said Province of Upper Canada; and in the same Act are contained Provisions for giving Force, Authority, and Effect within the said Indian Territories and other Parts of America to the Process and Acts of the said Courts of Upper Canada; and it was thereby also enacted, that it should be lawful for His Majesty, if He should deem it convenient so to do, to issue a Commission or Commissions to any Person or Persons to be and act as Justices of the Peace within such Parts of America as aforesaid, as well within any Territories theretofore granted to the Company of Adventurers of England trading to Hudson's Bay as within

within the Indian Territories of such other parts of America as aforesaid; and it was further enacted, that it should be lawful for His Majesty from Time to Time by any Commission under the Great Seal to authorize and empower any such Persons so appointed Justices of the Peace as aforesaid to sit and hold Courts of Record for the Trial of Criminal Offences and Misdemeanors, and also of Civil Causes, and it should be lawful for His Majesty to order, direct, and authorize the Appointment of proper Officers to act in aid of such Courts and Justices within the Jurisdiction assigned to such Courts and Justices in any such Commission. provided that such Courts should not try any Offender upon any Charge or Indictment for any Felony made the Subject of Capital Punishment, or for any Offence or passing Sentence affecting the Life of any Offender, or adjudge or cause any Offender to Suffer Capital Punishment or Transportation, or take cognizance of or try any Civil Action or Suit in which the Cause of such Suit or Action should exceed in Value the Amount or Sum of Two hundred Pounds, and in every Case of any Offence subjecting the Person committing the same to Capital Punishment or Transportation, the Court, or any Judge of any such Court, or any Justice or Justices of the Peace before whom any such Offender should be brought, should commit such Offender to safe Custody, and cause such Offender to be sent in such Custody for Trial in the Court of the Province of Upper Canada:

From and after the Proclamation of this Act in British Columbia the said Act of the Forty-third Year of King George the Third, and the said recited Provisions of the said Act of the Second Year of King George the Fourth, and the Provisions contained in such Act for giving Force, Authority and Effect within the Indian Territories and other parts of America to the Process and Acts of the said Courts of Upper Canada, shall cease to have Force in and to be applicable to British Columbia.

Appeal from Judgments in Civil Suits to the Privy Coupeil.

V. Provided always, That all Judgments given in any Civil Suit in British Columbia shall be subject to Appeal to Her Majesty in Council, in the Manner and subject to the Regulations in and subject to which Appeals are now brought from the Civil Courts of Canada, and to such further or other Regulations as Her Majesty, with the Advice of Her Privy Council, shall from Time to Time appoint.

Vancouver's Island, as at present estallished, not to be included in Dritish Cclumbia. VI. No part of the Colony of Vancouver's Island, as at present established, shall be comprised within British Columbia for the Purpose of this Act; but it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, on receiving at any Time during the Continuance of this Act a joint Address from the Two Houses of the Legislature of Vancouver's Island, praying for the Incorporation of that Island with British Columbia, by Order to be made as aforesaid, with the Advice of Her Privy Council, to annex the said Island to British Columbia, subject to such Conditions and Regulations as to Her Majesty shall seem expedient; and thereupon and from the Date of the Publication of such Order in the

said

said Island, or such other Date as may be fixed in such Order, the Provisions of this Act shall be held to apply to Vancouver's Island.

VII. In the Construction of this Act the Term "Governor" shall "Governor." mean the Person for the Time being lawfully administering the Government of British Columbia.

VIII. This Act shall continue in force until the Thirty-first Day of Act to continue December One Thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, and thenceforth bec. 31, 1862. Expiration of to the End of the then next Session of Parliament: Provided always, Act not to affect Boundaries. that the Expiration of this Act shall not affect the Boundaries hereby ries, &c. defined, or the Right of Appeal hereby given, or any Act done or Right or Title acquired under or by virtue of this Act, nor shall the Expiration of this Act revive the Acts or Parts of Acts hereby repealed.

And I do further proclaim and publish that the said recited Act shall take effect within the said Colony of British Columbia from the date hereof.

> Dated at Fort Langley, this day of November, 1858, in the twenty-second year of Her Majesty's Reign.

> > JAMES DOUGLAS,
> > Governor. { LS. }

## GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.



HIS EXCELLENCY JAMES DOUGLAS TAKES OATH OF OFFICE AS GOVERNOR
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, FORT LANGLEY, 19 NOVEMBER, 1858
HONORABLE CHIEF JUSTICE BEGBIE ADMINISTERING OATH



# PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency, JAMES DOUGLAS, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Colony of Vancouver's Island and its Dependencies,

IIEREAS, Her Majesty has been pleased, by an Instrument made under Her Sign Manuel to revoke the Crown Grant dated the 30th day of May, in the year of Our Lord, 1838, to the Hudson's Bay Company, for exclusive trading with the Indians, in so far as the said Grant embraces or extends to the Territories comprised within the Colony of British Columbia.

I, JAMES DOUGLAS, Governor of the said Colony, now proclaim and publish this Instrument revoking the said Grant, for the information and guidance of all persons interested therein.

Given under my hand and seal at Victoria, Vancouver's Island, this third day of November, 1858, in the Twenty-Second year of Her Majesty's Reign.

## GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.



# REVOCATION

Of License of 30th May, 1838, to Hudson's Bay Company, for exclusive Trading with the Indians, in so far as the same embraces the Territories comprised in British Columbia.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen Defender of the Faith. To all to whom these Presents shall come. Greeting:

"HEREAS, by an Instrument under the hand and seal of the Right Honorable Lord Glenelg, then one of Our principal Secretaries of State, and dated the Thirtieth day of May, One thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight, We did, for the reasons and considerations therein recited, grant and give our License to the Governor and Company of Adventurers trading to Hudson's Bay, and their successors, for the exclusive privilege of trading with the Indians in all such parts of North America to the northward and to the westward of the lands and territories belonging to the United States of America as should not form any part of Our Provinces in North America, or of any lands or territories belonging to the said United States of America, or to any European Government, State or Power, but subject nevertheless, as thereinafter mentioned; and did give, grant and secure to the said Governor and Company and their successors, the sole and exclusive privilege for the full period of twenty-one years from the date of Our said Grant of trading with the Indians in all such parts of North America as aforesaid (except as thereinafter mentioned): provided, nevertheless, and We did thereby declare Our pleasure to be, that nothing therein contained should extend or be construed to prevent the establishment by Us, Our Heirs, or Successors, within the territories aforesaid, or any of them, of any Colony or Colonies, Province or Provinces, or the annexing any part of the aforesaid territories to any existing Colony or Colonies to Us in right of Our Imperial Crown belonging; or constituting any such form of Civil

Government

Government as to Us might seem meet, within any such Colony or Colonies, Province or Provinces. And We did thereby reserve to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, full power and authority to revoke Our said Grant, or any part thereof, in so far as the same might embrace or extend to any of the territories aforesaid, which might thereafter be comprised within any Colony or Colonies, Province or Provinces as aforesaid.

And Whereas, We have by Our Commission, under the Great Seal of Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, bearing date at Westminster this second day of September, One thousand, eight hundred and fifty-eight, in the Twenty-second year of Our reign, and in virtue as well of the powers vested in Us by an Act entitled, "An Act to provide for the Government of British Columbia," as of all other powers and authorities belonging to Us in that behalf, established within the territories aforesaid, a Colony, under the title of "British Columbia," bounded as in the said recited Act is mentioned, to the South by the frontier of the United States of America, to the East by the main chain of the Rocky Mountains, to the North by Simpson's River and the Finlay Branch of the Peace River, and to the West by the Pacific Ocean; and including Queen Charlotte's Island, and all other Islands adjacent to the said territories, except as thereinafter excepted.

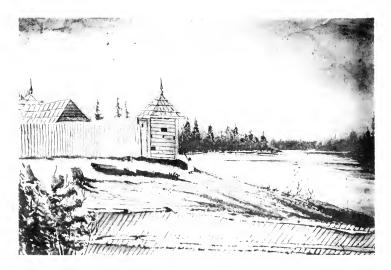
And Whereas, it has appeared to Us expedient that the right of exclusive trade with the Indians given by Us, in manner aforesaid, to the Governor and Company of Adventurers trading to Hudson's Bay, and their successors, within the territories in the said instrument described, should no longer be exercised by them within so much of those territories as is comprised within the said Colony of British Columbia.

Now, know ye, that We do hereby revoke Our said Grant contained in the hereinbefore recited Instrument of the thirtieth day of May, One thousand, eight hundred and thirty-eight, in so far as the same embraces or extends to the territories comprised within the said Colony of British Columbia.

And We do hereby declare, that this present revocation of Our said Grant shall take effect within the said Colony as soon as it shall have been proclaimed there by the Officer administering the Government thereof.

> Given at Our Court at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, this second day of September, 1858, in the Twenty-second year of Our Reign.

> > By Her Majesty's Command.



Fort Langley, 1858



THE ROYAL ENGINEERS, 1860
Military train, Sergeant, Corporal, Sapper.



# PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency, JAMES DOUGLAS, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Colony of British Columbia and its Dependencies.

PROCLAMATION, having the force of Law to declare that English Law is in force in British Columbia.

MEREAS by an Act of Parliament passed in the Session held in the 21st and 22nd years of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, it was enacted that the territories therein described should be comprised within the Colony thereby created of British Columbia; and it was further enacted that on the proclamation of the said Act in British Columbia, certain Acts which were passed on the 43rd year of his late Majesty King George the Third, and in the 2nd year of his late Majesty George the Fourth, and by which the law of Upper Canada was extended to certain parts of America therein mentioned, should cease to have force in the said Colony of British Columbia or to be applicable thereto.

And whereas such proclamation of the said first mentioned Act was duly made on the day of last.

And whereas by a Commission under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Her Majesty was pleased to appoint James Douglas to be Governor of British Columbia, and to authorize

### 2 ENGLISH LAW IN FORCE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

authorize the said James Douglas by proclamation issued under the Great Seal of the said Colony, to make Laws, Institutions and Ordinances for the peace, order and good government thereof.

It is therefore hereby enacted and proclaimed by the Governor of British Columbia that the Civil and Criminal Laws of England, as the same existed at the date of the said Proclamation of the said Act, and to far as they are not, from local circumstances, inapplicable to the Colony of British Columbia, are and will remain in full force within the said Colony, till such time as they shall be altered by Her said Majesty in Her Privy Council, or by me, the said Governor, or by such other Legislative Authority as may hereafter be legally constituted in the said Colony; and that such Laws shall be administered and enforced by all proper Authorities against all persons infringing and in favor of all persons claiming protection of the same Laws.

Given under my hand and seal, at Victoria, Vancouver's Island, this day of November, 1858, in the Twentysecond year of Her Majesty's Reign.

JAMES DOUGLAS, Governor.  $\left\{ \underbrace{\widehat{LS}}_{}^{} \right\}$ 

## GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.



# **PROCLAMATION**

By His Excellency, JAMES DOUGLAS, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Colony of British Columbia and its Dependencies.

PROCLAMATION, having the Force of Law to Indemnify the Governor and other Officers for Acts done before the Establishment of any Legitimate Authority in British Columbia.

HEREAS, large numbers of Her Majesty's subjects and others, have resorted to and settled on the territory now comprised within the limits of this Colony, before the establishment of any settled form of government therein; and it has been necessary to take steps for the establishment and maintenance of peace, order and good government, and for the protection of the rights of Her Majesty, and for the collection of a revenue from lands belonging to Her Majesty; some of which steps may not have been fully authorized in point of law;

And Whereas, by a Commission under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, I, JAMES DOUGLAS, Governor of the Colony of British Columbia, have been authorized, by Proclamation issued under the Great Seal of the Colony, to make Laws, Institutions and Ordinances for the peace, order and good government of the same;

Ba

### PROCLAMATION TO INDEMNIFY THE GOVERNOR.

Be it therefore known to all whom it may concern, that I, the said James Douglas, Governor of British Columbia, do hereby, in virtue of the authority aforesaid, enact and proclaim that every act, matter or thing bona fide done and performed for any of the purposes aforesaid, before the date of this proclamation, by me, the said James Douglas, or any other person or persons acting under my authority or direction, shall be deemed to be and to have been valid in Law, and that I, the said James Douglas, and the said other persons, shall be and hereby are severally and jointly indemnified, freed and discharged from and against all actions, suits, prosecutions and penalties whatever, in respect of any such act, matter or thing, and that the same shall not be questioned in any of Her Majesty's Courts of Civil or Criminal jurisdiction in this Colony.

And I do further enact and proclaim, that any declaration in writing, under the hand of the Governor, or officer administering the Government of British Columbia, to the effect that any act, matter or thing specified therein, was done or performed for any of such purposes, or under any such direction or authority as aforesaid, shall, for the purposes of this proclamation, be conclusive evidence of the matters stated therein, and shall be a sufficient discharge and indemnity to all persons mentioned in the said declaration in respect of the act, matter or thing specified therein.

Dated at Victoria, Vancouver's Island, this day of November, 1858, in the twenty-second year of Her Majesty's Reign.



## GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

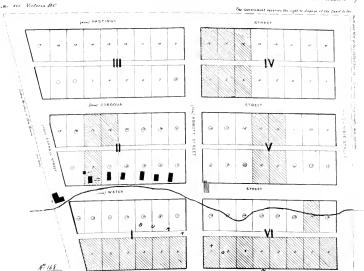
### RESIDENTS OF

# VILLAGE OF GRANVILLE PETITION FOR INCORPORATION AS CITY OF VANCOUVER JANUARY, 1886

TOWN OF CRANVILLE

BURRARD INLET. B.C.

( So) Josepher Frutch 10th march 1570



#### THE TOWNSITE OF GRANVILLE, 1870

At the top, HASTINGS STREET; in the centre, CORDOVA STREET; at the bottom, WATER STREET, portly under water. On the right, CAMBIE STREET; in centre, ABBOTT STREET; on left, CARRALL STREET. The L shaped building in lower left corner is Captain John Deighton's hotel on the beach, next the Customs House, with a tiny jail beside it. The Customs House is also the residence of our first public official, Constable Jonathan Miller, returning officer at the first civic election.



### GRANVILLE, 1884, NOW VANCOUVER

The whitewashed buildings are on Water street between Carrall and Abbott streets; the forest on Hastings street between Carrall and Cambie streets. Our Cenotaph now stands on site of tall dead tree behind two storey white house on extreme right. Nearby, Hamilton, Canadian Pacific Railway Land Commissioner, drove the first wooden stake, with nail in top, when he commenced to lay out the wilderness into streets and blocks for the "C.P.R. Townsite," now Vancouver.

Mr. Van Horne, afterwards Sir William, General Manager, Canadian Pacific Railway, visited Vancouver in August, 1884. He discussed with Mr. Lauchlan Alexander Hamilton, Canadian Pacific Railway Land Commissioner here, matters concerning the proposed new city, such as its name, the proposed street system arrangement, location of railway station and wharves. The village of Granville was a street one block long, now our Water Street from Carrall Street to Abbott Street, one side of which was the beach; a single row of whitewashed buildings faced the mountains. At the rear were six blocks of forest debris, blackberry bushes, swamp, skunk cabbage and frogs. Beyond, the forest stood in a straight line along what is now our Hastings Street from Carrall to The Cenotaph. The two men stood conversing.

"HAMILTON, HAMILTON! THIS IS DESTINED TO BE A GREAT CITY. PERHAPS THE GREATEST IN CANADA, AND WE MUST SEE TO IT THAT IT HAS A NAME COMMENSURATE WITH ITS DIGNITY AND IMPORTANCE, AND VANCOUVER IT SHALL BE IF I HAVE THE ULTIMATE DECISION."

The announcement that young Mr. Hamilton had provided in his plans for a city five miles wide, from Hastings Park to Jericho Beach, and two miles deep to our 16th Avenue, an area completely covered with forest, left the pioneers of old Granville in awe.

The courage, vision and energy of our founders has been proven. In the short span of a single life their dreams have come true. Vancouver, the happy home of an enlightened and benevolent people, is thirty miles wide by twenty deep. The Legislative Assembly of the Province of Maritish Columbia.

The Petition of the residents of Vancouver in the District of vew Westminster

Stumbly Sheweth

That the present village of framile with its ricinity has been chosen by the terradian Pacific Railmay fompany as the terminus of their sailmay, and in consequence thereof the said Village is now darly increasing, and is tracky to increase very largely in population, in the intimediate soften.

futur. That in view of the large nicease in sard population, it is necessary and expedient that the building of roads struts and bridges, and other improvements of a like nature should be provided.

Mour fithinus further show that the sarch failmay formpany are about letting the contract for constructing their same of Ballmay from Port throady to said village of Granville and are about constructing large throws, and other buldings and improvements in said village of Granville and in the immediale vierriby thick said construction and improvements will are employ ment to many hundreds of men and for the reasons afousaid, and for the better presention of law and order your Petitioners are desirons of obtaining a charten in corporating the said village of Granville and its immediate recently, a city under

the name of the lity of Vancorwer. Your Petrhoners Therefore pray. That your Honomble House may In pleased to puss in act marporety the said aly of Vancouver in accordance with the desire of your Pelchoners Und your Petitioners as in duty bound will over fray. Jechol alesanos. Edward. F. Rans. This + megine d 4. Millyddn Dad aguson Frank of Wicholawa All. Sullivan James Nemlow Donala M. Naughtan Robert Shomas Tho head Il Berlingsale John Doutter This Haggard Janes me allister Samuel Fearse A Russell Baucher S. J. Tilley Ano Tante et. Luman Ashen Han Blackstone My airelee Grant & Carrece Daniel Al Fondle A. I. In chingen he D. allan Mr Ther

Thomas Wilson, I me powald W. Frome Hermely Leeving J. D Havangh alfred Wendell Vill Smill Sweet W. Madison Go Bary Suc. Addisone METT Former + Par Danuel Greer H. E. Faulis, Mo. Arthur Johnston James Z. Hall. M. Rukson I Jackman & Frager Carond (Bridgen .. ) m. Rochl I lived with asilmore Payne

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## PETITION

for the Incorporation of the

## CITY OF VANCOUVER

TO

## THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

THE PETITION of the residents of VANCOUVER in the District of New Westminster

#### HUMBLY SHEWETH

THAT the present Village of GRANVILLE with its vicinity has been chosen by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company as the terminus of their railway, and in consequence thereof the said Village is now daily increasing and is likely to increase very largely in population in the immediate future;

THAT in view of the large increase in said population, it is necessary and expedient that the building of ROADS, STREETS and BRIDGES, and other improvements of a like nature should be provided for;

YOUR PETITIONERS further shew that the said Railway Company are about letting the contract for constructing their line of railway from PORT MOODY to said village of GRANVILLE and are about constructing large WHARVES, and other buildings and improvements in said village of Granville and in the immediate vicinity which said construction and improvements will give employment to many hundreds of men, and for the reasons aforesaid, and for the better preservation of LAW and ORDER your petitioners are desirous of obtaining a charter incorporating the said Village of Granville and its immediate vicinity, a city, under the name of "THE CITY OF VANCOUVER."

### YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE PRAY

"THAT your Honorable House may be pleased to pass an Act incorporating the said CITY OF VANCOUVER in accordance with the desire of your Petitioners. AND your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray." Geo. Addison R. H. Alexander S. Altermat Hy. Arkell L. R. Authier W. G. Ballson E. E. Barker Pat Barry D. L. Beckingsale T. Blackstone Henry Blair J. J. Blake F. D. Boucher Iohn Boultbee T. H. Boyd W. J. Brewer E. C. Bridgman Sam Brighouse Wm. Brown Iohn Callow H. I. Cartier I. Cartwright B. F. Chase W. H. Chase G. F. Chipman W. Clements C. A. Coldwell E. H. Coleman A. R. Coughtrey J. C. Douglas H. J. Edson A. G. Ferguson R. C. Ferguson Ge. Finney R. Forsyth A. C. Fraser G. Fraser H. L. Freese J. A. Gillis A. Gilmore Grant and Arkell

W. E. Graveley

J. A. (or J. M.) Green Samuel Greer Thos, Haggart J. Z. Hall L. I. Hall E. P. Hamilton L. A. Hamilton J. B. Harker R. A. Harkness James Hartney 1. Harvey Iohn Hay I. M. Haywood H. Hemlow Iames Hemlow H. W. Hughes J. Huntly F. C. Innes W. Irvine I. Iackman J. W. Jackson Thos. J. Janes Isaac Johns C. G. Johnson Alex Johnston A. Johnstone Kavangh J. E. Kelly (or Kelby) J. F. Kingdon H. E. Langis Pete Larson John Leask I. A. Livingston W. Madison Jos. Mannion Donald Menzies I. Miller W. T. Millross T. H. Morris I. McAllister

F. C. McCartney W. E. McCartney

and Bro.

Daniel McDonald R. McDonald W. U. (or W. C.) Macdonald T. F. McGuigan W. J. McGuigan John McKenzie M. A. MacLean D. McNaughton A. McPherson F. A. Nicholson I. G. Nicolson Iustus Nyerson J. W. Palmer I. D. Paris G. Payne or C. I. Payne Samuel Pearse I. Pitt Wm. Proehl J. L. Quackenbush E. E. Rand Colin Rankin I. Rooney A. W. Ross J. Ross M. Y. Ross A. Russell Alexander Seeing (or Leeing) Will Smith John Strathern A. W. Sullivan C. Sullivan H. Sweet R. Thomas S. T. Tilley W. H. Watson A. Wendell II'. S. Westcott A. Willson H. L. Wilson T. Wilson

Jas. E. Wize

One hundred and twenty-five petitioners, all men, signed. The petition was presented to the Provincial Parliament, Victoria, B.C., on 15th February, 1886.

The last surviving signatory was Mr. Henry Blair, who died 24th March, 1949.



## OUR FIRST CUSTOMS HOUSE, FIRST COURT HOUSE, FIRST JAIL, AND FIRST "CITY HALL"

Where first election took place: Constable Miller's Cottage.

The Crown Colony of British Columbia built this cottage, and called it the "CUSTOMS HOUSE." After Confederation, in 1871, it became the "COURT HOUSE." and beside it was a tiny jail of two cells, seldom used, and without a lock on the door. At the first civic election, May 3rd 1886, it was the sole polling booth, and, for a few days after, served as "CITY HALL." The only Provincial official on Burrard Inlet, Constable Jonathan Miller—and his family—lived there.

#### CHRONOLOGY

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#### FIRST ELECTION

This was held in the Provincial Government cottage, the white-washed home of the only constable, Mr. Jonathan Miller (it was called the "Court House") on the Water Street beach, 3rd May, 1886. Four hundred and sixty-seven electors, all men, placed their ballots in the only ballot box. There was no voters' list—all who came voted. Rumour is some came early and often. Mr. Miller was returning officer, Mr. Charles Gardner Johnson, poll clerk. The result was:

| MAYOR—Malcolm Alexander MacLean | 242 |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Richard H. Alexander            | 225 |
|                                 |     |
|                                 | 467 |

ALDERMEN – Robert Balfour, Charles A. Coldwell, Peter Cordiner, Thomas Dunn, Joseph Griffith, Joseph Humphries, Harry Hemlow, E. P. Hamilton, L. A. Hamilton and Joseph Northcote. Ten in all. The election cost \$83.75.

#### FIRST COUNCIL MEETING

At the inaugural Council meeting, May 10th, 1886, held in the cottage, our first "City Hall," a full establishment of civic officials, with salaries, were appointed, but the new city was completely without funds, without a bank account, and, being without by-laws or assessment roll on property, could not impose fines or fees, nor levy taxation. These deficiencies were soon remedied.



THE FIRST ELECTION, 10th MAY 1886, and "THE MAPLE TREE"

Looking south on Carrall street from Water street in the new "City of Vancouver," May 1886. The notice calling the first civic election, 3rd May, is nailed to the "Maple Tree." Under its branches, pioneers sheltered from sun and shower, held meetings and impromptu concerts, tied horses, and candidates for civic office made speeches. The Indian name for the shady clearing on the beach was "Lucklucky." Here Captain John Deighton, alias "Gassy Jack" squatted, 1867; built his tiny hotel, and hoisted the Union Jack above the first building in Granville, now Vancouver. Indians and early land surveyors carried their canoes across the narrow neck of land which separated Burrard Inlet from False Creek. The tree was destroyed in the great fire which burned the first Vancouver, 13th June 1886. A monument now marks its place.

## THE FIRST ELECTION AND FIRST CITY COUNCIL

From the recollections of the late Alderman W. H. Gallagher, who, having had experience in civic procedure in the North West Territories, volunteered to act as master of ceremonies for those entirely strange to it at the first meeting of the Council.

## Alderman Gallagher:—

"The old Court House on Water Street, where the voting for the first election of the City Council of Vancouver took place, and also where the first meeting of the City Council took place, was a little, low building spread all across the lot, and stood back a few feet—a foot or so, perhaps more, perhaps it was the sidewalk which was wider there. Water Street was planked; it was our only street; the planking was burned in the fire and afterwards replaced, but at the time of the election it was planked, bridged as it were over the old beach which curved in to the alley behind; I believe they have trouble even today with the water seeping into the basements of buildings there, but, as I said, Water Street was our only

street. You could get along Water Street to just a little beyond Abbott Street, and you could go down Carrall about as far as where Hastings Street is now; beyond that on both streets was just a pathway. Cordova Street was not opened up, nor was Hastings Street.

"The little Court House was a little, low building; there was no entrance from Water Street; a passage way ran down the east side and the entrance to the court room was from that passage way—a door on the east side of the building and about the centre of it. (On another occasion Mr. Gallagher has said that the entrance was straight off Water Street; others have said the same thing. The story, at present, is confusing. See other accounts— Geo. R. Gordon, W. R. Lord, H. E. Ridley.) At the opposite end of the court room was the exit door, and another passage way to Water Street on the west side of the building. On the inlet side of the court room, which was just a bit of a room about the size of a large sitting room, say 10' or 12' by 20', were two or three small rooms, from which windows looked out over the inlet. One was where the judge robed and disrobed, and left his things; the others were offices. On the opposite side of the court room were three or four cells where the prisoners were put; the doors to these cells were not barred with iron, (?) but I think had keyholes in them. Just how they were lighted I do not know, was never in them, nor can I just recall how the court room was lighted. The court room walls were plain V joint; it may have been varnished, but was discoloured with age or smoke from the stove; a long horizontal box stove with the door in one end, into which fairly long slabs of wood were pushed, a pioneer box stove, and stove pipes. Probably there were a few lumps of cord wood in the corner, I don't remember. In the centre was a plain table say three feet wide and about eight or ten feet long, and in the north west corner of the room was a tall desk on high legs, wth a lid top which lifted up, and in this top beneath the lid, the court bible and police records were kept, and out of it Mr. Johnson got the bible when he administered the oath to Mr. MacLean. Above it were-a lot of pigeon holes, where Constable Miller kept summonses. I forget whether the lamps were hanging, or not; the whole thing was primitive and small. At the back was a jail yard, reached by a passage way from inside the court room; a passage way at the east end, through a door.

On the day of the voting there was a crowd of interested men congregated just outside in the passage way by the east door. The voting was 'open.' The voters entered the Court room, voted, and passed out through the west door, where there was another crowd of men gathered in that passage way too. Charlie Johnson, who was deputy returning officer, stood with his clerk at the high desk at their clerical duties all day; but for convenience he had moved it to the west end of the table. Charlie Johnson attended to all the arrangements himself; it was he who, in the afternoon, fixed me up with a little table at the south side of the room where I could prepare the voters' certificates of residence for submission to him. I was acting for Mr. MacLean. Jonathan Miller may have been returning officer, but I did not see him about; Charlie attended to all the details, had all the 'say'. I was there all day and saw the thing from beginning to the opening of the ballot box. The voting went on all day; voters coming in one door and going out at the opposite end. Outside both doors was a crowd of men.



"THE BUILDERS"

Inauguration of Civic Government, Vancouver, 1886

His Worship Malcolm Ālexander MacLean, first mayor of Vancouver, delivering his inaugural address at the first meeting of the City Council, 10th May 1886, in the largest room of a small cottage, known as the "Court House," Granville village, and used by the sole constable on Burrard Inlet as his family home.

Painting by John Innes owned by Major J. S. Matthews and associates.

The first meeting of the Council took place in daylight. Mr. Johnson (Charles Gardner Johnson) himself swore in Mr. MacLean as mayor; not Mr. Jonathan Miller. I was there, and saw all that went on; up to that time Mr. MacLean had been mayor-elect, not mayor; the small room was full of aldermen-elect and others; all who could crowd in, only a few in all, lifteen or twenty men, a stove, a desk, a long table, and the chairs make a good room-full for a room say 12' by 20' or less. How many of those assembled in the room were smoking? I expect some of them were, for in those days most of them smoked a pipe.

Charlie Johnson got the bible off the top of the high desk and administered the oath of office to Mr. MacLean. Then Mr. MacLean, as mayor, swore in the aldermen. The aldermen-elect were standing up on both sides of the table; lined up on both sides, with arm and hand raised, each gentleman repeated his name and then Mr. MacLean administered the oath to them collectively all at one time.

There were insufficient chairs. Charlie Johnson found some in the prisoners' cells and passed them out into the Court room; there was some agitation, some shuffling about; Mayor MacLean was standing at the head of the table. Then he sat down, and was the only man sitting down when he called the meeting to order. Tom McGuigan, afterwards, for so many years, city clerk, took a seat on the corner of the table at the left of the mayor.

Charlie Johnson, who up to that time had been master of ceremonies all day, whispered to me "What do we do next?" I was a young man, it is true, but I had once been through a similar experience in Wolseley, Man., and had a general idea of the procedure. I replied "If you'll wait a moment I'll show you," and I went out into the street and around to Tilley's Stationery store, bought a pen, a bottle of ink, a pad of paper, and, returning, wrote down on the head of the first sheet "City of Vancouver."

Then I said to Charlie Johnson "Better elect a city clerk." Then I wrote something brief about "Meeting of City Council," "sworn in by Chas Gardner Johnson," and pushed the pad in front of Tom McGuigan.

Query: 'Mr. Gallagher, the "Vancouver Advertiser" says that the proceedings were opened with the appointment of J. Huntly as City Clerk, pro tem, and that afterwards J. Rooney was appointed permanently at the first Council meeting.' (See "Vancouver Advertiser," Vol. 1, No. 3, Tuesday, May 11, 1886.)

That's wrong. Rooney was postmaster, he resigned, and Jonathan Miller quit as policeman just about that time, and was appointed postmaster. Do you believe everything you read in the newspapers? That newspaper was the "Advertiser"; I doubt if McDougall (the editor) was there; he was probably drunk in any case. Get hold of the "Weekly Herald," see what they say; you will probably find a more accurate account in the "Herald."

I myself wrote the resolution appointing Tom McGuigan City Clerk, and as soon as the resolution passed, pushed the pad in front of Tom McGuigan.

The next resolution was the appointment of Chief of Police, Jack Stewart.

I don't know about Bill Findlay's (the late Mr. Wm.) remarks re the conversation he overheard between David Oppenheimer and his uncle Lewis Carter, (see "Early Vancouver," Vol. 2, page 238) about bringing the water over the Narrows in a tunnel. Lewis Carter was a brainy man. The charter for the Coquitlam and the Capilano Water Works systems were granted before, or at the same time, as the city was incorporated; they all passed the legislative assembly together. Oppenheimer was heavily interested in the Vancouver Improvement Company. He built miles of sidewalk out in the east end which led to nowhere; there were no houses near them. It is not Oppenheimer's monument which should be at the entrance to Stanley Park: it should be MacLean's. Oppenheimer was not the statesman that MacLean was.

## THE FIRST RESOLUTION OF THE FIRST CITY COUNCIL

12th May, 1886

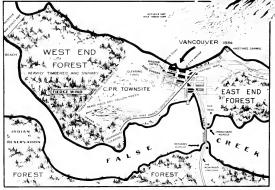
### The Acquisition of Stanley Park

A meeting of the Mayor and Aldermen was held in residence adjoining Court House, Vancouver at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 12th May 1886. His Worship the Mayor presiding. Present Aldermen Balfour, Cordiner, Coldwell, Dunn, Griffith, Hemlow, Humphries, E. P. Hamilton, L. A. Hamilton and Northcott.

Communication from A. W. Ross was read requesting the Council to petition the Dominion Government to grant Reserve on First Narrows for a City Park.

Moved by Alderman L. A. Hamilton, seconded by Alderman Coldwell, that the Mayor be authorized to forward a petition to the Dominion Government through the Member for New Westminster District praying that the whole of that part of the Coal Harbour Peninsular known as the Government Reserve, or such part as in the wisdom of the Government they might see fit to grant, be conveyed to the City of Vancouver for a Public Park.

The Great Vancouver FIRE



The towering forest had been felled, and lay, as a covering one hundred acres in extent and twenty feet thick, in a tinderous mass of logs, branches, leaves, pitch and moss drying in the summer sun, over the C.P.R. Townsite, now downtown Vancouver. It caught fire. June 13th 1886 was a calm Sunday morning; the people were at church. Suddenly a fierce wind storm sprang up, fanned the smauldering embers of the clearing fires into flame. It was all over in forty-five minutes; a grand but awful sight; those who did not escape in the first few minutes perished. That night the first Vancouver lay stark to the black earth; one building escaped. The citizens, in mournful groups, gathered together in the darkness; watched, in the blackness of night, the distant glimmer of the dying fires, and awaited food and blankets hastening through the forest from New Westminster.

"What rebuilt Vancouver, Mr. Gordon?" we asked, and he answered "Faith; it was all

"What rebuilt Vancouver, Mr. Gordon?" we asked, and he answered "Faith; it was all we had left."

From a sketch by J. S. Matthews.

# THE ACQUISITION OF STANLEY PARK THE FIRST RESOLUTION

Moved by Hamilton, Seconded by Coldwell

Munites of Second Treeting of Joureis a meeting of the mayorand alderman was held in Residence adjoining fourt House held in Residence adjoining fourt House Vancauces at 7, 30. p. In, on Wednesday 12th May 1886. His Worship the Mayors prending, Present aldermen Balgour Cordiner Caldwell Dum Griffith Hemlow Brunghires, E. P. Bamilton & a. Hamilton and hortheast. hunter of last meeting pead, adopted and repled by the mayor Communication from awross was read requesting the Commeil to petition the Doinmion Government to grant Reserve on First harrows for a lity Park.
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"The
Department
of the
Secretary of
State
Canada"
June 23 1886

To His Excellency the Most Honorable Sir Henry Charles Keith, Marquis of Lansdowne, Governor General in Council.

The Petition of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Vancouver in the Province of British Columbia Humbly Sheweth.

Whereas an Act has been passed by the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia Incorporating the City of Vancouver.

And whereas there is within our City Limits a portion of land known as "The Dominion Government Military Reserve" near the First Narrows and is bounded on the West by English Bay and on the East by Burrard Inlet.

And whereas it is advisable that permission should be given to the Mayor and Council of said City of Vancouver to have control of said Reserve in order that it may be used by the inhabitants of the City of Vancouver as a Park.

Your Petitioners therefore Pray that said Reserve should be handed over to the said Corporation to be used by them subject to such restrictions as to your Excellency may seem right to be and to be held by them as a Public Park.

M. A. MacLean Mayor Thos. F. McGuigan

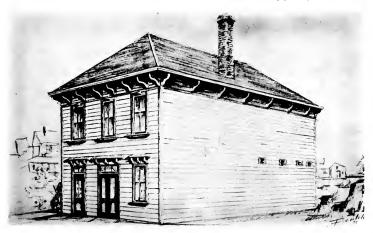
Thos. F. McGuigar City Clerk



#### CITY HALL IS A TENT, 14th JUNE 1886

"In all history, no City Hall has been built more rapidly than the one I erected in five minutes the morning after "The Fire." We got a tent. I was senior Alderman; got a can of paint, a brush and a piece of board, and labelled it "CITY HALL." We held Council meetings in it; a magistrate's court sat there; at the foot of Carrall street at Water street."

Except, letter, L. A. Homilton.



#### OUR FIRST CITY HALL AND POLICE STATION, 1886

North side Powell street between Columbia street and Main street, 25 feet by 60 feet; cost \$1280. Council Chamber on upper floor; also used for Court Room, Sunday school, public meetings and concerts. First Council meeting, November 8th. City offices, and four cells on lower floor. Heated by wood stove; water from well; no basement, no sewerage. Site donated by Dr. I. W. Powell, M.D. The first building owned by City of Vancouver. Upon completion, the city was unable to pay for it, so the contractor denied admittance for two weeks.

From a sketch by T. F. Sentell, grandson of E. W. Sentell, of Sentell Bros., the builders.

## INAUGURATION OF CIVIC GOVERNMENT IN VANCOUVER

Reminiscences of Alderman Gallagher as recorded in "Early Vancouver." Matthews.

Granville - Royal Sappers and Miners Vancouver, Early - W. H. Gallagher, Esq. December 30th, 1931.

"It was the ex Royal Engineers who cleared the forest off old Granville," said l.Ir. W. H. Gallagher, and then, as an afterthought, added, "and a few pioneers of pioneers; men who had permission to go there, for instance, Arthur Sullivan's father cleared his own land—on Cordova street, between Abbott and Carrall—and Sam Brighouse and John Hailstone built a place where they sold milk; where they kept the cans, the milk cans, fifteen years before Vancouver was thought of.

"They kept their cows out on the ranch; on the cliff at the foot of, and to the west a little, Burrard Street, overlooking the inlet."

Mr. Gallagher is growing older; a shock of steel white hair replaced what was once dark brown, and now clothes a venerable head; not surprising considering that, forty-five years ago, he was old enough to act as special constable at the old Westminster Avenue bridge the night of the Great Fire of June 13th, 1886. Today this veteran pioneer, now seventy-two, formerly an alderman of this city, still continues to take a lively interest in civic and business affairs. He represented British Columbia at the great Buenos Aires (South America) exposition a year or so ago, and now is actively engaged at his office, an early wooden building at the south east corner of Richards and Pender Street. He lives at 1935 Comox Street, but came to Vancouver in April, 1886; before the Fire. He is now packing up, preparatory to a pleasure trip to Europe.

#### Granville, 1885

"The townsite of Granville was a small oblong; less than twenty acres—four blocks; along the shore of Burrard Inlet, low lying at the narrowest separation of False Creek and Burrard Inlet; during the high tide months of June and December, the water from both arms of the sea flowed freely across what is now Columbia Street.

"Prior to 1885, Granville was nothing more than a secluded pioneer settlement; a clearing, three hundred and fifty yards along the shore, two hundred and fifty yards into the forest, boxed in by tall trees; damp, wet, the actual clearing littered with stumps and forest debris, and a profusion of undergrowth, including luxuriant skunk cabbage. A great wall of trees stood along Hastings Street, and faced the waterfront; two similar walls flanked the clearing; along Cambie Street on the west, and Carrall Street on the east. All else was verdant woods. The trees east of Carrall Street were cut down in 1885; those west of Cambie in 1886.

"Our pioneer thoroughfare was Hastings Road, a winding crooked wagon road which skirted the shore between Hastings Mill and Gastown, running in and out among the trees in the same general direction as Alexander Street and Railway Avenue do today, but between those streets and the present Powell Street. Before the fire of June 13th, 1886, it continued

on across Carrall to what is now known as Water Street, which, for half its length between Carrall and Abbott streets, was bridged over tidal land over which, at high tide, the waters of the inlet flowed. Continuing on, beyond Abbott Street to the west; Water Street became a wagon trail which corkscrewed a sinuous way in and out among the stumps, until, just beyond Cambie Street, it circled round in the trees to a primitive landing on the shore at which boats from Moodyville, and even Port Moody, landed freight; not passengers. The landing stood almost directly below, but slightly to the east of the foot of Homer Street produced. It was to this wharf that the refugees, flying before the fire, ran for protection from the blast, and whence women and children were conveyed to the hulk "Robert Ker," for safety, in small boats. The Water Street trail did not lead to Granville Street; all was forest up there.

I have been up to John Morton's; up on old Seaton Street ,now Hastings Street West, at the foot of Burrard, on the "Bluff," but how I got there I don't know now; perhaps a continuation of the Water Street trail did lead up in that direction. He had a small piece of land cleared there, an acre or so partly cleared, and had some cows. It was the water from the spring, and the clearing, which was responsible for the location there of a chinaman's camp when the clearing of the land west of Burrard Street commenced, and where part of the Chinese rioting took place afterwards. But Brighouse and Hailstone wanted it for their cows; they had no idea there would ever be a Vancouver; that was what they pre-empted District Lot 185, the West End, for.

"Brighouse himself told me what he wanted the land for; he preempted D.L. 185 because he did not want others bothering him. He also told me that when the man who was surveying was laying out the boundaries the man had said to him, "I will put in the island (Deadman's Island) in your pre-emption for five dollars." Hailstone said, "Don't give it to him; we've got enough stuff now." Sam was a prince with his money. He would always give money for a hospital, or go down to Victoria to battle for the city's interests at his own expense. There was nothing small about Sam.

"The Water Street trail led to the little old landing; the wharf at the foot of Cambie Street was built after the fire; to unload lumber from scows with which to rebuild the city. It was owned by the Moodyville Sawmill Co., of Moodyville, a very early Burrard Inlet lumber firm with a large export trade. Mr. Matheson, father of Mr. George Matheson, assistant land registrar at the Court House now, was the Vancouver agent of the sawmill, and it was he, together with the late Mr. Tiffen, who was associated with him, who built the Cambie Street wharf. The water off the foot of Cambie Street was shallow; it was deeper at the foot of Abbott Street.

"At the foot of Carrall Street there had been for a good many years, a public float; a small affair, about three feet wide; just two cedar logs lashed together, and running away out beyond the shallow shore; almost exactly where the Union Steamship dock is now. The mail for Moodyville, which was quite an important place, went that way by the little steamer "Senator," owned by Captain McFadden; there were three "Senators," a first, a second, and a third, and the Hastings Mill had two or three small tugs. Afterwards. Captain McFadden sold his business to the Union Steamship Co., and they had the contract to take the mail to Moodyville, that was what the "Senator" was doing.

"On the shore side of Water Street, at the corner of Carrall Street, stood the Sunnyside Hotel, where His Excellency the Governor-General, the Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise once stayed. Its back verandah faced the famed Maple Tree, burned in the fire, and under whose branches were our first "political headquarters." Next to the Sunnyside Hotel was George Black's butcher shop, also on piles; there were no other buildings on the shore between George Black's and Abbott Street, although the land was surveyed into lots; wet lots. The Rev. Joseph Hall's Methodist church was on the shore beyond, to the west of Abbott Street. I do not recall any other buildings on the shore between Carrall Street and Cambie Street; not in April 1886, although there may have been.

"On the south side of Water Street, facing the water, the Deighton Hotel stood on the corner of Carrall Street, facing the Sunnyside; then next the very old Court House and jail; probably not the first one; that was where the first City Council met in a small sitting room with a long table. I will tell you more about that later. Tom Cyr's Granville Hotel came next; he bought it from Joe Mannion; it was where the Grand Hotel was afterwards and is now; next was "Billy" Jones' "Terminal" saloon, then the Gold House, owned by old Mr. Gold, and on the corner of Abbott Street was a restaurant, Pete Clare's, they say; I forget. The whole length of Water Street between Abbott and Carrall Streets was planked right up to the store doors, and, where necessary, piled. I presume the provincial government had done the bridging in the earlier days.

"The Regina Hotel, at the south west corner of Cambie and Water Streets, was not finished at the time of the great fire, but they were living in it. There were no buildings on the first two lots across the street, where the boot factory is now; that helped to save the Regina Hotel. The first wooden headquarters offices of the C.P.R., on the cliff about the foot of Richards Street, they too were saved. Both Carrall Street and Abbott Street were opened up, and, being joined together by Water and Cordova Streets, formed a single square, or oblong block; the only block in town; all else ran wild. Carrall and Water Street had the stores. On the corner of Carrall and Powell Street was the Ferguson Block, next to it the Post Office—on Carrall Street. On the flat iron corner opposite were three little one storey stores.

"The residential street was Cordova Street. At the back of the Court House, but facing Cordova, Jonathan Miller lived. He was our jailer before the fire, our whole police force in himself, and afterwards, for so many years, Vancouver's postmaster. The postmaster of old Granville, or rather Vancouver as it had become, resigned a day or so before the fire or just after it, and Mr. Miller being a government official, got the appointment. About the middle of the block was Mrs. Sullivan's home, whose sons, Arthur and Charles, lived with her, and whose husband had cleared their land with his own hands. Charles was afterwards drowned at Andy Linton's boathouse at the foot of Carrall Street. On the corner of Abbott and Cordova Streets, facing Abbott Street, was a row of Chinese cabins, and some other occupants of ill repute.

"On the corner of Water and Abbott Streets, where the Winters Hotel is now, there was a nice new building facing on Abbott Street, just completed. It was destroyed in the fire; I don't think they ever received a cent

of revenue from it. There were many similar instances of misfortune; building was going on in haste, the first evidences of Vancouver's rapid expansion were being experienced.

"On the remainder of the clearing of O.G.T., that is, up to the trees, there were no buildings to speak of prior to April, 1886; just stumps and rubbish.

"From the corner of Carrall and Cordova Street, a wagon road or trail, led southwards diagonally across Columbia Street towards the Westminster Avenue bridge on False Creek. It skirted the lower levels of the creek waters, which came up to Pender Street at Columbia Street, passed along that shore near where the gas works now stands on Main Street, and finally reached the bridge on False Creek, and continued on by the "new road" to New Westminster. From Granville to the bridge it passed through forest; it was not near the site of the present Main Street at any point until it reached the bridge.

"A trail ran up to Hastings Street, from about where the B.C. Electric Railway Depot is now, as far as Woodwards Department store, and thus far it might have been possible for a two wheeled cart to get by, but west of Abbott Street on Hastings Street, towards Victory Square, the trail was too narrow.

"Another important trail ran, in 1886, from the "residential area" on Cordova Street, up Abbott Street to Pender Street; and Cambie Street, climbing the hill past the old hospital and school grounds, and wandering off into the woods, goodness knows where, until finally it came out at the foot of Granville Street on False Creek, near Robertson and Hackett's sawmill now. It was used by hunters, and loggers from the logging camps out on English Bay, near Jericho. It had been an old Indian trail. When you reached the salt water at the foot of Granville Street on False Creek, you waved a stick with a rag for a flag, and an Indian would come over in a canoe from the Reserve, and take you across and bring you back again, for four bits. An old Indian lived at the foot of Granville Street; he would ferry you over for two bits. I have had them call for me, and bring me back many times. There was lots of excitement down at Greer's Beach in 1886, and the fellows used to go over there to see what the place was like."

## Clearing the Forest Away

It was remarked to Mr. Gallagher that Mr. William Hunt of Seventh Avenue West has in his possession a very old painting in oil, done by his father Mr. C. Hunt in 1895, from a photograph given him at that time by Mr. Norman Caple, a very early photographer of Vancouver, and which Mr. Hunt Sr. says Mr. Caple told him at the time he requested him to paint it, was of Granville Street, looking south from Pender Street in 1884. It shows a buggy travelling on an almost straight uphill trail, and towering forest on both sides.

"How could that be, even in 1884," replied Mr. Gallagher. "Of course, the old logging roads always led down hill, but in 1881 no buggy could possibly drive up or down Granville Street. The old logging road, which

came down from the top of the hill in almost the exact position of Granville Street today, had great wide skids, ten feet wide or more, and in the winter of 1886 these were still in position. Anyone who has seen the old corduroy roads will understand; they were made of logs a foot or more in diameter, and laid side by side. In the autumn of 1886 the C.P.R. was hauling stumping powder and camp supplies in "stone boats" over those skids. Early in the summer of 1887, the C.P.R., under the direction of Mr. L. A. Hamilton, C.P.R. surveyor and an alderman, cleared and graded Granville Street and the skids were then removed and destroyed. They rough graded a road, and planked it, ten or twelve feet wide, wide enough for a drive; and at their own expense.

"In the other direction, on the slope facing south, the logging road ran from the crest of the hill about Robson Street, towards False Creek, but it did not follow Granville Street: it sheared off to the east; the land sloped in that direction, and the logs from that area were yarded into False Creek, by Angus Fraser, to about where the C.P.R. roundhouse now stands. Oxen, probably six or seven yoke on one log, dragged the logs out of that trail as late as 1887.

"I think perhaps the old painting might be of Granville Street south, across False Creek, opened up by the C.P.R. about 1890. It could not be Granville Street from Pender Street.

#### The Giant Trees

"The timber on the higher levels, that section centered about the Hotel Vancouver and the "Hudson's Bay," was the choicest stand of timber I have ever seen; it was very heavily timbered with enormous trees. One tree, which stood on Georgia Street between Granville Street and Seymour Street, was thirteen feet thick at the stump, even at two hundred feet from the butt it was three or four feet in diameter. It is the same tree which is shown in the well known photograph of a real estate office, with a placard "Vancouver lots for sale"; it never was a real estate office, that was merely a joke. The hollow butt, which forms the shelter of the supposed office, was burned out in the fire of 1886. The burned butt was cut off—there is a photograph extant showing what was cut off; also one of the stump, which I have—and the remainder cut up into sections so that they could be put together again, the sections shipped to the old country, where it was put up in some gardens for exhibitions.

"When the tree fell it fell along Georgia Street—north west and south easterly.

"The man who cut down the forest where now stands the most important business section of our city, that is, roughly, from Cambie Street to Burrard Street north and south between creek and inlet, adopted the expedient of cutting the backs only of the smaller trees, and then let a big tree down upon them; the whole thing would go down with a crash, like a lot of ninepins. After the first attempts at this system were proven successful, they enlarged it, and as the felling progressed southwards towards Davie Street—they had started from Burrard Inlet and worked south—a whole section of ten or more, perhaps twenty, acres would go down with one great sweeping crash. The axemen cut down the firs and cedars only; the smaller trees were knocked down, crushed, smashed; there were great numbers of vine maple, and many of them were bent down, only to spring

back and stand erect again. When the fire came, the Great Fire, it was largely through this abundance of slashing fallen earlier in the summer, and very dry, which caused the fire to rage so fiercely. At the time of the fire the trees were cut down at least as far as Drake Street, with the exception of a clump east of Homer Street, where the C.P.R. had a reserve, of which more by and by.

"People of today may gather some conception of the general appearance of all that tract mentioned if they will imagine brush, limbs and timber to the depth of ten feet or more lying strewn over the ground in an almost solid mass in every direction; a dry spring, and, especially with a little wind, an ideal setting for a gigantic fire.

"Reverting back to the big tree on Georgia Street. There is extant a photograph of the butt section of that tree showing two men in front, and a shed behind. That photograph must have been taken some time after 1886 for there were no sheds up there until the land was cleared, then there were several sheds in which the workmen kept their tools and supplies, and where a saw filer worked. You will notice in that photograph, there is no sign of the greater part of the trunk of the tree; just the butt length with burned butt. The probability is that the photograph was taken in 1887, or 1888, after the smaller, but more perfect sections had been shipped to England, and while the sheds used in clearing the land were standing. The burned cavity in the butt was not more than five or six feet deep.

"I have heard that Mr. Devine, who has that photograph, says that the butt section was nine feet in diameter at the small end, and was thirty feet long, and that the tree was shipped, in 1886, to the Indian and Colonial Exhibition."

#### The Great Fire of 1886

It was remarked to Mr. Gallagher that the "Sun" newspaper had published an article on a Great Fire anniversary some four or five years ago, in which it was stated, and had never been denied, that the Great Fire started in the neighborhood of Hastings Street, say from Seymour to Hamilton Street.

"The fire broke away before ten o'clock that morning," resumed Mr. Gallagher, "I was there and saw the fire myself. It was down near Drake Street that the fire started; along near Homer Street, west of False Creek. On several occasions articles have been published, notably by Major C. Gardner Johnson and W. F. Findlay, nephew of Lewis Carter of the Carter House, recounting the story of how the fire started, and no doubt they gave their views exactly as they saw them.

"The C.P.R. men were clearing the round house site, and the fire got away from them. Where now stands much of the C.P.R. railway yards was formerly a great bay of False Creek, the shore of which is now very roughly defined by the western boundary of the yards and tracks, but the old shore swept in a great curve, and passed close to the foot of Helmcken Street, and the foot of Beatty Street; there has been an enormous lot of filling in. The roundhouse site was exactly where it is now, at the southern end of the reserve, the latter being bounded by Homer and Smythe Streets, of the C.P.R.

"My firm, Percival and Gallagher—Mr. Percival was an experienced man, I was just a young one—had the contract for building the C.P.R. road bed from Hastings and Carrall Street to the roundhouse site. Our camp—we had forty men—was located on the shore of False Creek, in a little bay, just west of, perhaps two hundred and fifty feet, the present Cambie Street bridge. A small brook, which drained the water from two smaller rills which met in a fork, entered the bay near our camp, but we drew our drinking water from a hole in the ground. Our camp was, at high tide, almost within two feet of salt water.

#### The Start of the Fire

"I was up at the roundhouse at 10:00 a.m. that Sunday morning, and at once put some of our men to the assistance of the C.P.R. men who were trying to keep the fire under control; at the time we did not even dream that anything so serious as afterwards happened would occur. I am not quite sure that it was C.P.R. men who were fighting the fire, I rather think it was men employed by the Townsite Commission, that is, R. B. Angus and Lord Strathcona, trustees of C.P.R. lands, and in whose name all lands were held and disposed of. At ten o'clock that morning I accompanied our three men, who had volunteered to help fight the fire, up to the roundhouse, stayed with them, and returned with them to our camp for lunch, and after the meal our men went back to continue their assistance, but upon their return the fire had got away and was out of control, and by three o'clock raging through the old town. While up there I saw that the fire was growing very dangerous, and as we were leaving, I cautioned our three men that if the fire got away from where it was semi-cleared of slashings, that they were not to attempt to fight it, or they would lose their lives. After lunch we parted, they went back to the fire, I went down to our office on the south side of Hastings Road, now approximately Alexander Street; about where the entrance of the North Vancouver ferry is.

"I secured our books and money; pay day was nearing, but there was not much time; I had been in our little office but a few moments when I saw, through the window, a rabble of people running by. They were coming down Hastings Road, from the direction of the Deighton House, Gassy Jack's place. I went out on the road, walked up towards Gassy Jack's, but by the time I got there the Sunnyside Hotel across the street was a mass of flames, and before I could get back to the office I had just left, that was on fire too; I had not even time to save clothing.

"Before I left our camp, the fire had gained such momentum that it was impossible to see the sky; the air was just one mass of fiery flames driven before a strong rising south west wind.

"The remainder of our men were forced out of our camp on the False Creek shore, and driven into False Creek. Some of them had taken the precaution to dig a cavity in the road bed; into the slope of the hill facing the creek, and in it they buried some of their belongings and camp supplies, so that we had food to eat until supplies came from Victoria and Seattle; both Victoria and Seattle sent a boat load. Some Indians encamped on the other side of the creek, where Leamy and Kyle's mill was afterwards, now the site of the Vancouver Lumber Co., came over in canoes and rescued our men, and took them across the creek to their encampment.

"But our three men who had helped fight the fire were never heard from again. What became of them we never actually found out; they had a month's pay coming, which was never claimed, nor did we find the remains or hear from relatives. Their disappearance remains a mystery to this day. They were men of splendid character; not such as would remain unheard from. There is little doubt that those brave men perished in a gallant attempt to bring the fire under control.

## Vancouver Consumed by Flame

"The city did not burn; it was consumed by flame; the buildings simply melted before the fiery blast. As an illustration of the heat, there was a man driving horse and wagon, caught on Carrall Street, between Water Street and Cordova Street; man and horse perished in the centre of the street. The fire went down the sidewalk on old Hastings Road, past our office, so rapidly that people flying before it had to leave the burning sidewalk and take to the road; and the fire travelled down that wooden sidewalk faster than a man could run.

"I waded out into the harbor at the back of our office, between Carrall and Columbia Streets now, with hundreds of dollars of pay money in my pockets; and nearly suffocated. The heat was so intense that we had to stoop almost to the surface of the water to get our breath. There was a current of cool air close to the surface of the water we were standing in, between the heat and smoke and the surface of the water; we breathed that, and it saved us.

"Word that Vancouver had been destroyed reached the outside world from George Black's at Hastings; Hugh Keefer, who had the contract for the construction of the roadbed from Port Moody to Vancouver, had a telephone; the only one.

"As soon as the news reached New Westminster that Vancouver had been destroyed, the city officials sent out young men on horseback who rode up and down the streets shouting that Vancouver had been burned, and the people were without food. Truly splendid services were rendered wholeheartedly by the people of New Westminster. They immediately began to collect provisions, and the housewives put up parcels of food, practically to the last fragment they had. That afternoon and evening the New Westminster Volunteer Fire Brigade, the "Hyacks," helped to collect it.

"In the meantime a messenger had arrived on horseback in Vancouver, saying that food for women and children was coming, and all the blankets they could send. Mayor M. A. MacLean and Chief of Police Stewart sent messengers to the places where the people were huddled together for the night, and advised them to assemble at the south end of Westminster Avenue, just over the bridge, now the northern part of the Canadian National ornamental gardens, and the only practical place to assemble, for the most of the rest of Vancouver was unapproachable; a mass of glimmering lights in the darkness of the night, smouldering embers, and smoke. The city had been swept clean, save for a half dozen buildings on Westminster Avenue, the Regina Hotel, and a few floating scowhouses. Mr. Alexander's house and the other adjoining also escaped.

"Mayor MacLean's call to assemble was followed by what was probably the sorriest looking procession Vancouver ever had, and I hope ever will see, and long to be remembered by those who witnessed it. Hungry and temporarily despondent women, children and men, who had lost all they

possessed, some even their clothes, straggled in twos, three or larger down-cast groups along that rough old trail, through the woods in the blackness of that dark dreary night, and gathered together to await the arrival of food.

"At twelve midnight two wagon loads of eatables arrived at the south end of the False Creek bridge. They had hastened by a rough bush trail, a wagon's width wide, the "New Road," now Kingsway, then a mere furrow, fringed with scrub, through the forest. The weaker and the elderly were served first; both food and blankets; the men got what was left.

#### God Bless the Sailors

"I must tell you of a most touching scene; the late arrival of four sailors with medical supplies.

"For some time there had been a telephone from New Westminster to Onderdonk's at Port Moody, and by that means the news of the fire reached Port Moody and some ships lying there. Four sailors had volunteered immediately, started out, rowed all the way in a row boat, part of it against the tide, and brought medical supplies. Many persons were burned in the fire, had had no medical attention; no bandages or other medical supplies were available, all had been burned. The sailors had sized up the situation, and dashed off with a badly needed medical aid.

"They were certainly very weary after their long pull, and no doubt very hungry too.

"At first the men distributing the food from the wagons said there was not a morsel left for the sailors, but as they were emptying the crates and boxes the food had been sent in (it was a topsy-turvy confusion of eggs hurriedly fried and placed between slices of bread, or perhaps hard boiled eggs in a soda can protection), a man named Slater-who, together with myself, had been appointed by the mayor to police and superintend and who had taken a very prominent part in seeing that women and children were served first—called out that he had discovered, in one of the empty crates, something which had been missed. You must realize that almost complete darkness prevailed in the bivouac. It was a little parcel, neatly done up, and was given to the sailors. Some thoughtful New Westminster woman had prepared some sandwiches, just fried eggs between bread, but with it was a little note which feelingly said she regretted it was very little, but was all she had; sane, sensible woman whoever she was; how pleased she would have been had she seen what her little mite accomplished for those splendid men.

"The sailor man who got the note turned and faced the east, raised his hand in an attitude of supplication, and offered the most beautiful prayer for New Westminster and its people; imploring the Almighty never to let them be in such distress, and asking the Lord to reward them a hundred fold. You do not expect that sort of thing from a rough sailor, and in the middle of the night."

It may have been a reflection of light which I saw, or it may have been a tear which fell, but when, some days later, I read these notes to Mr. Gallagher, I glanced out of the corner of my eye, and now I am sure it was not a reflection.

"Some say," he went on, "that I have an undue prejudice in favor of New Westminster. It is hard to forget; to forget their wholeheartedness in the hour of Vancouver's great distress.

## An Improvised Morgue for the Dead

"The Regina Hotel was, of course, the only building of any consequence which escaped, and it was located at the corner of Cambie and Water Street; north of the fire, as it were. But on Westminster Avenue near the bridge, south of the fire and protected by an indent of water from False Creek, six or seven buildings, including the Bridge Hotel, survived. The Bridge Hotel, on the east side of Westminster Avenue, adjoined the bridge, while across the road, almost opposite, were three houses, John Boultbee's our police magistrate, Mr. John's, the collector of customs, and Mr. Coughtery's, the meat merchant; all three houses close together on the west side. We converted a small building adjoining the Bridge Hotel into a rude morgue, and, before daylight, there were deposited the remains of twenty-one persons there."

"We gathered together some bits of board and built a table about three feet high, five feet wide, and thirty feet long, and as each body, or part of body, was brought in, it was reverently laid upon that table. Some bodies had not an arm, nor foot, nor head left; some of the poor remains would not hold together; some weighed a few pounds, perhaps twenty or thereabouts; all had so suffered by fire that they were not recognizable. The Bridge Hotel gave us their blankets, and in those were wrapped such remains as were found, with a little note attached to each parcel saying where the contents were picked up.

"Altogether there were twenty-one parcels, and I know of others, those which were not discovered until the work of clearing away the debris of the burned buildings began. There was one on Hastings Street, another on Pender Street, both about one hundred feet from the railway crossing; another was discovered beneath a mattress.

"The little morgue building was lighted by candles—there was no electric light or gas here then and in the feeble illumination a procession passed in and out all night; some were searchers bringing their sad burden; others distracted fathers and mothers looking for their little ones; their faces and hands were grimed with sweat and charcoal dust; their clothes were such as they had when they first ran. When the dawn broke they were still searching.

"One incident is that of two elderly people—strangers to the city. I met the old lady on Carrall Street, deeply distressed; she said she had lost her husband. I consoled her and went on. A little further on I met her husband, also deeply perturbed, until I told him I had seen his wife up the road, and, turning around, pointed to her sitting on a black root at the corner of Hastings Road and Carrall Street.

"It was never known, and never will be, how many lost their lives. Of all the remains found, three only, those found at the corner of Hastings and Columbia Streets, were recognizable, by their features; then, too, we made an effort to keep the number as low as possible. Three bodies were taken out of a well down near St. James Church on Cordova Street East; at the time there were some shacks down there. They were evidently hus-

band, wife and little daughter, and must have been strangers, saw the fire coming, rushed away, and, seeing a well, jumped into it. There was three or four feet of water in the well, and their clothing was unharmed by fire, but their faces were livid: the fire had, apparently, swirled over the well, and they had been suffocated, not burned. They were well dressed; the lady had gloves on her hands. It was the gum and pitch which made the fire so terrible, so fierce, and created a black, bitter smoke more smothering than burning oil.

"The fire occurred at a time when families and others were scattered; that is the explanation of how so many were separated from their kindred. It was early on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, the midday meal was over, some had gone to Sunday School, others out for pleasure. Most of the people were new arrivals, and the men folk especially, took the opportunity of the bright Sunday afternoon to look over the townsite the very shape of which, now so familiar, was then, just after the falling of the trees, strange even to many who might be called "old timers." The town was new, and the thought uppermost in our minds was 'would it grow east or west of Carrall Street'; the question was debated at every corner; many were off spying out the land. Then, with a terrible swiftness, the fire came upon them; each had to fly to save his own life; there was no time for re-uniting."

## The First Church Service after the Fire The Presbyterian Church, Rev. C. L. Thompson

"No, I'm afraid not," smiled Mr. Gallagher, "I'm afraid we did not pay much attention to church or Sunday School. On Sundays we were too busy working; hauling lumber, clearing, building the city again. But there is a little story I want to tell you about.

"On Sunday afternoon, the Sunday after the fire, about 2:00 p.m., it happened on Cordova Street, just a little west of Carrall Street, on the north side of Cordova Street; Rev. Mr. Thompson, the Presbyterian clergyman, came along, and suggested to the workmen who were grading Cordova Street and covering it with planks—three by twelve planks—that perhaps they ought to cease work for a moment, and give thanks to the Almighty for their escape the previous Sunday. Everyone in sight laid down their tools; the teamsters left their horses standing. Then they picked up the empty spike kegs, and some planks, and carried them into an empty store in process of erection for Geo. L. Allen, the boot and shoe merchant, and made rows of seats out of the kegs and planks. About one hundred and fifty went in to the service

"Just at that moment His Worship Mayor MacLean came along, and he joined in the simple yet deeply impressive service. The men were, of course, in their working clothes; the service was not long, and was soon over.

"At its conclusion those big, rough, hardy bushmen paid as gentle a compliment as ever I have witnessed. The service over, none moved; they all stood motionless while His Worship moved down the rude aisle. His Worship halted at the entrance, and stood to one side; Rev. Thompson on the other, and both shook hands with each member of the impromptu congregation as they slowly departed from the half finished building. Then the men went back to work to make Cordova Street passable.

#### "North American Chinamen" - R. H. Alexander

"The expression 'North American Chinamen' may have been used previously, but I do not think so. I will tell you of the first time I heard it, and I have always understood that it was Mr. Alexander who coined it." resumed Mr. Gallagher.

"A few days prior to our first election a strike took place at the Hastings Sawmill. Quite a number of navvys, who had helped to build the railway for Onderdonk, had come back from the construction of the roadbed. Most contracts for this work were finished in the fall of 1885, and the roadbed work was pretty well complete. These navvys had got work at the Hastings Sawmill for the winter, and at, I believe, one dollar and twenty-five cents per day; I am not certain whether this sum included their board and lodging or not; I rather think it did. Note:—in 1898 the author worked in a Puget Sound Sawmill for a dollar per day of ten hours, and twenty-five cents extra for two more hours, six to eight p.m., and paid fifty cents a day for board and lodging at the company boarding house.) These navvys prompted the strike of early April, 1886; probably ten days before the first civic election in which Mr. R. H. Alexander, the mill manager, was one of the two candidates for first mayor of Vancouver.

"A conciliation committee of merchants and business men was appointed at a meeting held under the Maple Tree, and was requested to interview Mr. Alexander; I was one, the late Mr. Fulman Rutherford of Lulu Island was another. Mr. Alexander received us very cordially, told us that, for many years prior to that winter, he had run the mill successfully with Indians and some Chinamen, that he was quite willing to take back the men who had gone out—his old white employees had stood by him, and the mill was not shut down—but that he would not reduce the hours.

"The following evening the committee reported back to the meeting, again under the Maple Tree, conveyed their report, and added that they had promised to report back to Mr. Alexander what the men had decided to do.

"But the men would have none of it, and when we went to Mr. Alexander for our second interview, and gave him the men's answer, he replied that he would just engage a few extra Indians and Chinamen, and it was then that he made the remark 'Canadians are only North American Chinamen anyway.'

"Mr. Alexander was a splendid man, but the remark. made undoubtedly in a moment of exasperation, was very costly to him afterwards in the first civic election.

## Vancouver's First Civic Election, 1886

"It was the men felling the forest who elected our first mayor, His Worship Mayor M. A. MacLean, in April 1886," continued Mr. Gallagher. "They were slashing trees up around the Hotel Vancouver; where it is now. The late Major C. Gardner Johnson was poll clerk, and the balloting was done at the little old Court House, a small wooden building on Water Street, next to Gassy Jack's 'Deighton Hotel.'

"The printed booklet, "VOTER'S LIST, CITY OF VANCOUVER, 1886," frequently accepted as the first voters list of Vancouver, was first used at the election of 1887, not the first election of 1886. It was made up during 1886; after the first election. There was no voters list for the first election; the list of those who voted at the first election was made up with a pen, while the election balloting was in process, from those who voted, and was being added to even up to within ten minutes of the close of the poll.

"The voting was more or less open, and continued all day. Those presenting themselves to vote were asked "How long have you been here?", and "Where do you live?", and the replies were such as "I live at the . . . ." naming the hotel, or "I have been here . . .," mentioning the time. That was sufficient, but of course, during the conversation, those gathered within hearing—and there were many—could make a fairly good guess as to how he would vote.

"The men from the woods used to sleep at Tom Cyr's 'Granville Hotel,' so they went to him, and he would give them a slip of paper, saying that the man slept in Room No. 20 or 21 as the case was, and the man voted on that," and Mr. Gallagher laughed heartily.

"One man had a lease to a portion of a building on Cordova Street, and came down to vote with the lease in his hand, and voted on it. Mr. MacLean's committee persuaded him to leave the lease with them; it was drawn up on the usual form with a space for the name, and I think fifty men must have voted on that lease. After one man had voted the next voter's name was written on a slip of paper, and pasted in the space on the lease where the name appeared, and so continued until there was a tier of slips, and they were removed and a fresh start made.

"About eleven thirty a.m. the old paddlewheeler "Yosemite" drew in from Victoria with about one hundred and twenty-five voters on board, and after she passed Brockton Point, the band on her deck began to play "Hail the Chief," but the chief they hailed was Mr. R. H. Alexander of the Hastings Mill who was defeated; not Mr. MacLean, the successful candidate.

"The Hastings Sawmill, of which Mr. Alexander was manager, was owned by Victoria and San Francisco people, and about midday the mill people sent up fifty or sixty Chinamen to vote. Charlie Queen, who drove the Westminster-Gastown tally-ho — afterwards Alderman and subsequently, since the war, drowned on a C.P.R. "Princess" steamer—got up on a stage coach in front of Mr. Cyr's hotel on Water Street, and made a speech blaming the Hastings Mill people for sending the Chinamen up. The crowd grew hostile, started to drive the Chinamen back to the mill, the Orientals took to their heels, and the crowd took after them down the Hastings Road.

"The opening of the ballot box was a strange proceeding," and here Mr. Gallagher laughed again, "I'm afraid they were not familiar with election procedure, but we had lots of fun.

"Mr. Alexander was defeated, but not fairly. Several of those who helped to defeat him, including myself, called upon him subsequently, and asked him to become a candidate for mayor. He said he could not possibly spare the time for the mayoralty, but he would serve as an alderman, and

afterwards did. He was a splendid alderman, too; a far sighted, hard headed business man; he certainly served our city well.

"It was, first, the strike ,then the 'North American Chinaman' incident, and finally the Victoria crowd, and the band playing 'Hail the Chief,' which incensed many, and, together with the loose voting, all combined to defeat Mr. Alexander. It was also the first time there was any open display of ill feeling between Victoria and Vancouver; an ill feeling which did not die down until after the defeat of the Victoria oligarchy by Mr. Semlin of Cache Creek.

"There were some wonderful men on our earlier councils; not all on the first council, and head and shoulders over our parliamentary legislators at Victoria. A few I can hurriedly recall were MacLean, Oppenheimer, Alexander, Hamilton, Lefevre, Dunn and Templeton, besides others. They all served without remuneration. MacLean did not even take his postage.

#### The First Council Meeting

"The first council meeting was held in the sitting room of the old Court House, which faced the sea, on Water Street; where the No. 1 Fire Hall was afterwards, and now the site of a storage garage. The building stood back about ten feet from Water Street; the front door and sitting room windows faced Water Street. The interior of the sitting room was about ten feet wide and twenty long, was lined with plain cedar "V" joint, and lighted at night by a large coal oil lamp. Four doors in a row took up most of the long side opposite the windows, and opened into four prison cells.

"At the appointed hour, the mayor and aldermen elect, and some others, I think in all about twenty-one—more could not have found standing room—crowded into the small sitting room. The poll clerk, Mr. C. Gardner Johnson, and His Worship-elect took the head of the table. Mr. McGuigan sat on the poll clerk's left; I stood at Mr. MacLean's right, and was about the only person present not in some official capacity. I stood close to his Worship's elbow.

"Mayor MacLean and I had met before we came to Vancouver. He had been purchasing agent for the government in the Northwest Rebellion of 1885; he employed "a thousand" teams; I had horse feed for sale, and was buying wheat at Wolseley, thirty miles east of Qu'Appelle. Mr. MacLean had been exceptionally courteous and considerate of my interests then, so that afterwards, when we were both in Vancouver, and he was candidate for mayor, I naturally desired to return the compliment. He had little of worldly goods then, scarcely a week's board, so that a good opportunity was open to me to show my appreciation of his past kindnesses. I had also had previous experience in the establishment of civic government at Wolseley, Assiniboia, N.W.T., and so was more or less familiar with the procedure. Thus it was that I was at Mr. MacLean's right hand when the initial meeting of the City Council of Vancouver took place.

#### The First Council Assembles

At the head of the table sat MacLean, and the late Major C. Gardner Johnson, the poll clerk. Mr. Gardner Johnson administered the oath of office to His Worship, and then His Worship swore in the aldermen, and all seated themselves around the long table. Among the few present were Mr. John Boultbee, Mr. Jonathan Miller, the jailer, Mr. G. F. Baldwin,

Mr. J. J. Blake, Ex-Chief John Stewart and Mr. T. F. McGuigan. I do not recall any others though doubtless there may have been. I stood, as a sort of godfather, at His Worship's right.

"I doubt if any of the aldermen were experienced, and after being sworn in they sat down. Someone asked, "What do we do next?" I said, "If you will wait a moment or two I will show you," and I went out, around the corner, to a little stationery and book store, Tilley's, bought a pad of writing paper and a pen, came back, wrote the City's name at the top of a sheet, and then suggested that they should now appoint a City Clerk.

"Some one moved that T. F. McGuigan be appointed City Clerk, and after his appointment passed, I took the pen and pad of paper and placed them in front of Mr. McGuigan.

"The second appointment was G. F. Baldwin as City Treasurer, but they had not, as yet, twenty-five cents of civic funds for him to take care of.

"The appointments continued, Mr. J. J. Blake, was appointed City Solicitor. He was a fine lawyer of sound judgment, and never known to make a mistake. Mr. John Boultbee was appointed police magistrate.

#### The First Disturbance

"Then came the first disturbance in the City Council of Vancouver; who was to be the poundkeeper? Who was to look after the stray horses, cattle and dogs? At the time I could not understand what all the discussion and indecision was about, which grew stronger and stronger until finally decision was deferred until a later date, when Mr. Hemphill, father of Mr. Hemphill of the Hemphill Auto Schools, and who did not want the appointment, nevertheless got it, and we, all of us, got our drinks at the Sunnyside Hotel across the street. The cause of the disturbance was then revealed; it seems there was a wager as to who would get the appointment of poundkeeper, and with "Drinks for the crowd" as stakes.

"Alderman Harry Hemlow, in Vancouver, and Alderman L. A. Hamilton in eastern Canada still survive.

"I do not know who prepared our first civic charter, but the records would show. It might have been "Jimmie" Orr, M.P.P., who lived at Ladners, and represented all the great district surrounding, including Granville, in the legislature. Mr. Blake probably had something to do with it.

## Mayor MacLean

"Mayor MacLean was a Scotsman, and dearly loved to represent the city at any function. He was a fluent, forceful speaker, and had a good grasp of the future, municipally speaking, and proud of his part in laying down the foundations of our city. He was one of the few, it seems to me the only one, out of many who, in those early days, envisioned the growth of our city, our harbor, and especially our foreign trade, as it has actually taken place. He had travelled much, which few of us had done, and that, perhaps, may in part account for it. He was as honest as they are made, and very conscious of the high responsibility to which he had been elected, as well as proud of it.

"To give you an instance of his kindly character, I will account an incident which occurred on Dominion Day, 1886.

"The Indians of North Vancouver came over from the Mission to pay their respects to the new city of Vancouver. His Worship met them on the floating wharf at the foot of Carrall Street, and after their chief had delivered their message of goodwill, His Worship responded with a warm welcome. He referred to them as 'native Canadians' and reminded them that it was their brothers who had upheld the British in North American Wars.

"His address was inspiring, and intensely patriotic, and thenceforth the Indians of the Mission were very proud of the City of Vancouver and its mayor." (See his daughter's explanation, Feb. 8th, 1932, re Great Fire, 1886.)

"Poor as Mayor MacLean was, he worked and worked hard, without a dollar of salary for the first year, and even furnished his own desk and postage, but the second year he was furnished with an office at the old City Hall on Powell Street.

"Even Mayor Oppenheimer, who succeeded Mayor MacLean, was not paid a salary, but in the latter's case a small amount was set aside to cover his entertaining expenses, but Mayor Oppenheimer used very little of it, and when his year was up, a small unexpended balance was returned to the city from the grant which had been made. His custom was to give his card with a few brief notes on its back to whoever he was indebted, and Mr. Baldwin would make out a cheque in payment.

## Early Financing

"After the first council meeting civic organization was, more or less, complete, but there was no money in the treasury, and the question of finance came up early. There had been considerable preliminary expense, and other expenses, some defrayed privately by public spirited men; the mayor and the aldermen had been elected, the civic officials appointed, but there was no money to pay them, not twenty-five cents, nor to defray past or future expenses; there was no assessment roll, nor a single by-law.

"Some money was collected from fines inflicted on disorderly or drunken persons, but they were very small amounts; two dollars and fifty cents, went to pay the police salaries. Mr. Baldwin regarded that money as 'dirty' and when delivered to him would finger it gingerly.

"The situation was pressing and desperate, but not forlorn. It was clearly a case for the Chief of Police, and he was told to 'get busy,' and doubtless winked the other eye, and started to 'clean up' the town.

"Word was passed around that Magistrate Boultbee had signed some warrants for arrest, and then both he and City Solicitor Blake found it convenient to have an engagement in New Westminster. The Chief of Police actually had been busy, very busy, and had gathered in about twenty malefactors. The important thing for the moment was to get someone to sit on the bench and try the cases in the absence of the police magistrate.

"Mayor MacLean did not approve of the procedure which had been followed, and considerable persuasion was necessary before we could get him to see that the 'reputation of the city was at stake.' We implored him to take note that it was the city of which he was so proud, and of which he was the chief magistrate, and that 'its reputation was at stake.' Considerable pleading, plus a little invigorating stimulant at the 'Bodega' saloon, finished him, and we all went down to the old Court House on Powell Street, and His Worship got 'on the bench,' that is, his chair at the end of the table.

"'T. F.,' as we called him, the city clerk, read the first charge; the only charge read. Addressing the accused by name, he said, "You are charged with . . ., guilty or not guilty?" The accused rose to the occasion and circumstances, and pleaded "Guilty."

"The court was astonished. His Worship's dignity was already in the ascendent, and the plea of 'guilty' sent it sky-rocketing; he thumped his desk, and exploded. Fastening the accused with his eye, he thundered, "How dare you stand before me and plead guilty to defying the laws of God and man AND THIS YOUNG AND PROSPEROUS CITY." He halted a moment, and then abruptly ejaculated, "Twenty dollars," and with a sweeping gesture of his arm, "The same for the rest of you."

"That settled that, and the court rose instantly. About twenty were fined.

"While it was true that Granville had possessed a gaol for perhaps twenty years or more before incorporation as the City of Vancouver, the surveillance which came after incorporation was not possible before incorporation. The malefactors were undoubtedly guilty of an infraction of the criminal code, and the money from their fines was very convenient at the moment, to solve the more pressing needs of our civic finance.

#### The Chinese Riots

"In the autumn of 1886, Brighouse and Hailstone let a contract for the clearing of a portion of District Lot No. 185, that is, from about Burrard Street to Thurlow Street. Early in 1887; it was snowing at the time, the contractor, McDougall, brought in a number of Chinamen to work. McDougall's camp was near the corner of Burrard and Pender Streets, almost exactly where the Elysium Hotel stands now, where there was a small spring, and creek of splendid water; John Morton's old place.

"The night of the Chinese riots a public meeting was held; the speakers spoke from the verandah of the Sunnyside Hotel. After a few speakers had addressed the crowd, a procession was formed to go up to where the Chinamen had been landed; up at McDougall's camp; and drive them out; that would be well on towards midnight; there was snow on the ground; it was quite clear, and we could see what we were doing. There were many tough characters among the crowd, navvys who had been working for Onderdonk, hothcaded, thoughtless, strong and rough, and many went along with the procession to try and prevent anyone from being hurt. I was not in the procession, but I was within fifty feet of the front of it when they started. The column was singing as they marched along in the semi-darkness.

"When the Chinamen saw all these men coming they were terrified. The crowd came up to the camp singing 'John Brown's Body,' and such

songs; the Chinamen poked their noses out from beneath their tents; the 'rioters' grabbed the tents by the bottom, and upset them, the 'war cry' 'John Brown's Body' still continuing. The Chinamen did not stop to see; they just ran; some went dressed, some not, some with shoes, some with bare feet; the snow was on the ground and it was cold. Perhaps, in the darkness, they did not know that the cliff, and a drop of twenty feet, lay in front of them; perhaps they had forgotten, some may have lost their direction. The tide was in. They had no choice, and you could hear them going plump, plump, plump, as they jumped into the salt water. Scores of them went over the cliff; McDougall was supposed to have two hundred of them up there.

"Those who stopped at McDougall's camp after we returned to the Sunnyside Hotel, told me that those Chinamen who jumped into the sea were afterwards pulled out of the water, and herded onto the C.P.R. wharf, where there was a steamer, and that they all went off to Victoria early next morning; perhaps it was the C.P.R. wharf upon which they were herded, but I rather thought it was 'Spratt's Ark' upon which they collected.

"To my mind it was the singing the songs in a strange tongue, and our different race, which terrified the Chinamen. When the Chinamen came to Vancouver from Victoria they knew they were not wanted; came in the face of opposition; some Victoria Chinamen refused to come, and perhaps that knowledge helped to terrify them.

"My friends and I went along to prevent violence. After the trouble was over for the night we all went back to the Sunnyside Hotel. There the ringleaders proposed that we raid Chinatown. It was then three or four in the morning, and we prevailed upon them to wait until daylight; if they would wait until daylight then we would join them. Finally the arrangement was made that we were all to meet at the Sunnyside at 8:00 a.m., which we afterwards did. Those who were trying to save the situation agreed to furnish drays at that hour. The crowd decided that the 'Chinks' had got to be moved out of town.

#### Exeunt the Chinamen

"The following morning—I was there at 8:00 a.m. the crowd again assembled at the 'Sunnyside.' Several of the draymen owned their own dray or wagon, others were hired; the former gave their services free; where it was necessary to pay, my party paid. There were probably twenty-five drays and wagons used altogether. The crowd moved over to Dupont Street; to Chinatown, between Carrall and Columbia Streets, now known as Pender Street East.

"Some of the more responsible Chinese merchants suggested to some of our business men who went along to try and keep the peace, that the Chinamen would leave peaceably if they were permitted to leave one man in charge of their goods, and after a hurried conference with the leaders of the opposition to the Chinamen, the Chinese request was granted, and the elderly Chinese merchants assembled their fellow countrymen to a man, and we had no more trouble. None tried to escape.

"The Chinamen in each building were permitted to select their own custodian to be left behind; no goods were damaged, there was no pilfering. One Chinaman was left in each store. The remainder, probably one

hundred, assembled quietly, were loaded onto old fashioned horse drawn drays. They all stood crowded together on the drays, and one by one the drays and wagons moved off to New Westminster—a pretty rough ride in a springless dray over a rough road—and put on a steamer for Victoria.

"I have heard it said that four Chinamen were tied together by their pigtails, and thrown into the creek at McDougall's camp. If so, I know nothing of it. I do know that some of them were tied together by their pigtails, to prevent them escaping, in Chinatown the following morning.

"There were no buildings up at McDougall's camp on Burrard Street; at least none other than a cook house and a place for meals, both built out of one inch by twelve inch boards, and both of which were knocked down that night. The Chinamen were living in tents. You see, there was quite a space of vacant land, unoccupied, between Gastown and Burrard Street, in those days. Many people did not know that the Chinamen had landed there; they had been there a mere two or three days when the riot occurred. McDougall had hired all the Chinamen in Victoria, sent them over, and presumably kept out of the way, fearful that something would happen. McDougall was very unpopular, and he would have had rough handling if he had been there that night.

"A day or so following the Provincial Government suspended the city charter, sent over a number of special constables, and took charge of the city. An effort was made by these officials to convict those who had taken part in the Chinese Riots; they made two arrests of supposed ringleaders; a special magistrate was sent over from Victoria but they had no success in getting evidence against the men arrested. It was stated in court that the two ringleaders had gone to bed comparatively early in the evening, and had not left each other during the night, which was quite true. They had gone to bed comparatively early, got up again and gone to the riot, and then returned to the Sunnyside and gone to bed a second time.

#### The First Post Office, "Granville"

"Before the fire, the post office was in a little store, on the east side of Carrall Street, next to the Ferguson Block on the corner of Carrall and Powell Streets. Up to the incorporation of the city as 'Vancouver' it had been known as 'Granville' for some years; after incorporation, of course, it became 'Vancouver.'

"After the fire, the temporary post office was established in a cheap little shack at the extreme south end of Carrall Street, which Mr. John Hendry, manager of the Royal City Planing Mills Co. of New Westminster, had erected to keep his books in. John Hendry had some small sawmills up the Fraser River, and afterwards bought out the Hastings Sawmill. The post office remained in that shack for a short time only, and was then moved to the north side of Hastings Street, between Homer and Hamilton Street, near where the Kent Piano Co. is now, and located in a small frame building afterwards used as a store by Bailey Bros., early photographers. Its location there brought bitter complaints from the citizens that it had been moved 'so far out,' and the City Council was petitioned to use its influence to have it brought nearer in, and closer to the business section of the city. It remained there a year or so, and was then moved into the next block west, opposite the present C.P.R. Telegraph, later to the southwest corner of Pender Street and Granville Street, and finally to its present location at Hastings and Granville Streets.

#### Early Streets

"The C.P.R. opened up and rough graded, all at their own expense, a number of the streets west of Cambie Street. The summer of the fire, 1886, they opened up and rough graded Cordova Street, Hastings Street, Pender Street, all west of Cambie Street, and, in the spring of 1887, opened up Granville Street from water to water, from the Inlet to False Creek. They did not clear it the full sixty-six feet, but made a passable road leaving the stumps on both sides. From Burrard Inlet to the Hotel Vancouver they laid down a good planked driveway, ten or twelve feet wide. There were some others, streets which they opened up and made passable.

"Later the C.P.R. opened up what is now known as Granville Street South, clear through from False Creek to the Fraser River at the North Arm; of course, it ran through their own land. There was no road on Granville Street South, nor anywhere near it, before the C.P.R. opened it up; south of the creek there was not even a bush trail.

## The First Hospital

"The first hospital was at the foot of Hawkes Avenue; in the angle of Alexander and Powell Street. It was owned either by the C.P.R. or the construction people, and consisted, in April 1886, when I came, of a small wooden building and some tents. There were a lot of accidents during the construction days; some of those who died were buried on Deadman's Island. The first hospital the city built was a tall wooden building on Beatty Street, the second hospital was the brick building on the corner of Cambie and Pender Streets, now used as a City Relief office. The old building of wood was torn down, I think, at the time the Rotary Clinic was built.

"The hospital on Powell Street was kept going for quite a time, two or three years, after the C.P.R. line was completed. Dr. LeFevre was in charge; he kept it going. They were very good at that hospital; if you had money, you paid; if you were without, well, you got the best of treatment in either case. Then there was some criticism, and the criticism caused its closing.

#### The First Courts

"It was Chief Justice Matthew Begbie who held the first court in Vancouver after the fire; the case of Sullivan; held in the old Sullivan Hall on Cordova Street, built on the east end of the sixty-six feet on which the old Atlantic Hotel used to stand.

"Jonathan Miller, constable and jailer before the fire, postmaster after it, acted as clerk of the court on several occasions; in 1887 Mr. Gardner Johnson was registrar of the County Court. Mr. Johnson was brother-in-law of John Boultbee, our first magistrate, and in consequence, was kept busy, too busy, with the appointments he received. He was also a special constable with myself and others to keep law and order after the fire.

"The first court house, of course, was just around the corner from Garrall Street, on Water Street, and was where our first City Council met. It was burned in the fire. Just when it was built I cannot say; it may have been built by the Royal Engineers, or by the Government; old maps show a jail and customs house, and built in crown colony days.

"No. 1 Fire Hall, afterwards demolished, stood there in early years.

## **Our Early Schools**

"In the early days the Provincial Government built our schools and paid our teachers. The first school was, as is well known, at Hastings Sawmill; the second school, that is, our first city school, was on Cordova Street, about two blocks east of Gore Avenue; built and paid for by the Provincial Government. Some agitation resulted in school trustees being appointed, but even then the Provincial Government furnished the money for two or three years, say, up to 1888 or 1889, and, quaintly our teachers got five dollars per month less salary because they were teaching "west of Yale."

"The third school was on the site of the present 'Central School,' a long low wooden building about the middle of the block, and close to Hamilton Street, and one storey. Of that block the city owned the Pender Street half; the C.P.R. gave the other half, that next Dunsmuir Street, where the school board offices are now, for a high school site. The gift was in the form of a letter, and for many years the city had no title to that property other than that letter; a fact which I pointed out to the civic authorities a few years since, when they secured a proper title, as a result of my pointing that out to them.

"The C.P.R. was very good to Vancouver in the early days. The townsite Commission, R. B. Angus and Lord Strathcona, were both big minded men; they fathered us; for instance, the C.P.R. paid their taxes, before they were due, when we were out of finances to meet city expenditures.

## The Cambie Street Grounds - Hastings - George Black's

"The first ball games, cricket and baseball, etc., were played at George Black's at Hastings. George Black's Brighton House, a very early hostelry, was standing twenty years ago, and was on the shore of a wide bay just north of Hastings Park where the Hastings Road, from New Westminster, reached the water. When the C.P.R. was built the line circled around George Black's hotel. The Hastings station was almost exactly opposite the hotel. It had two stories, stood perhaps one hundred and fifty yards from the railway, and the surrounding land sloped gently down to the shore. Two shallow hollows with streams flanked it, one to the east and one to the west, and it was surrounded by considerable land, partly cleared, partly in small bushes.

"Adjoining were two or three acres of rough lawn, and it was there that many early games were played. At the eastern end of these grounds was a barn dance hall, and in the days of later Granville and early Vancouver, George Black's was a most popular resort. The afternoon athletic games were frequently followed by barn dances in the evening. Charlie Queen, afterwards alderman, who drove the daily stage, used to take the boys out to Hastings free of charge; there was no charge for the grounds or barn.

"But the Hastings ball ground was very cramped, and, as Vancouver grew, too far away for convenience. When the question of grounds for athletics came up, Alderman Hamilton, also C.P.R. land commissioner, naturally wanted the Cambie Street location; Alderman Oppenheimer naturally wanted the Powell Street site. We had a lively time between the two interests, and although we got the Cambie Street grounds first, we ultimately got both.

"The C.P.R. rough cleared most of the Cambie Street grounds, the prisoners of the chain gang, under John Clough, did a lot more; the cricketers and the baseball boys worked hard, too.

"The Powell Street grounds, being more convenient for practice than Hastings, were at first used for that purpose, and the matches played at Hastings.

#### 'Salmonbellies' and Salmonbellies

"It was on the Cambie Street grounds that the famous New Westminster lacrosse players got their sobriquet 'Salmonbellies.' It was given them by an Italian bootblack, a well known character about town, formerly of New Westminster, latterly of Vancouver, and who, following the usual custom of those days, carried his polishing outfit over his shoulder wherever he went.

"One day in the early nineties the Westminster lacrosse 'boys' came over to Vancouver for a game with the sticks. Vancouver gathered together a scratch team, and both teams, followed by a straggling crowd of pioneer 'fans,' assembled on the grounds to play it off. The bootblack was 'rooting' for New Westminster.

"The New Westminster men got the ball down towards the Vancouver goal, and tried to rush the net. The bootblack was "rooting' vociferously, and in his excitement yelled 'Git there, salmonbellies.'

"The epithet tickled the jocular fancy of the onlookers—everyone heard it—much hilarity followed, especially amongst the Vancouver supporters, and the descriptive nickname fitted so well that it has survived ever since, and has in a measure attached itself to all who hail from the old salmon town. In the earlier days of the salmon industry it was centred largely on New Westminster and perhaps Ladners, not on Steveston as it afterwards was."

It was remarked to Mr. Gallagher that, in Vancouver today, there are probably thousands of people who have no knowledge of salmonbellies, and who regard even the use of the word as not entirely polite. It was pointed out to him that, in the prize list for the British Columbia Rifle Association annual prize meeting held in Westminster in 1887, one of the principal prizes, presented by S. W. Herring, Esq., was a half barrel of salmonbellies; an epicurean delicacy well known to our pioneers.

"And he gave a real prize," answered Mr. Gallagher, "The preparation of salmonbellies is a lost art now; the old fishermen at New Westminster knew how to do it; they are too hard now; the old fishermen knew how to keep them soft, and to preserve the fat. Down on the Delta the farmers used to boil them, skim the oil off, put them in earthern crocks with cinnamon bark or cloves, and carefully cover them over again with their own oil. They kept for years, and were delicious.

#### 'Tar Flats'

"'Tar Flats' was a collection of nondescript huts—and characters on the shore of Burrard Inlet beyond the present sugar refinery, but not as far as Cedar Cove; a dirty place; a sort of rancherie, and got its name from some vessel.

## Early Stanley Park - L. A. Hamilton - A. G. Ferguson

"Mr. L. A. Hamilton, alderman and C.P.R. land commissioner, himself surveyed the first path around Stanley Park, and the present driveway is in almost exactly the same position as his first path, with one exception, near the reservoir, where some years later an alteration was made. He took his own time to survey the path, and was assisted by some of his axemen," continued Mr. Gallagher.

"The late A. G. Ferguson, contractor under Onderdonk, took a very great interest with Mr. Hamilton, in Stanley Park, and practically fathered it, for, say, ten years; that brings to mind an incident worth mentioning in connection with Stanley Park.

"Mr. Ferguson was an American and, when he was elected a park commissioner, while others were sworn in he was excused that ceremony. He took such an interest in Stanley Park that, when the annual sum appropriated by the Council for its upkeep and development was exhausted, he himself invariably paid the bills to the end of the year. Being a civil engineer, he gave the grades for grading the roads in the park, acted as park foreman, and practically gave all his spare time to it, the other commissioners being agreeable to leaving it to him. Ex-alderman Michael Costello told me that one year it had cost Mr. Ferguson five thousand dollars. Mr. Ferguson was a very far seeing man, and purchased some of the finest corners on Hastings Street. (Note: Costello was also a park commissioner.) Mr. Ferguson had no children of his own, nor had Mrs. Ferguson. Mr. Ferguson left a portion of his estate to his sister-in-law, Mrs. Ceperley, with a suggestion that, when she had no further use for it, it should be left to the city of Vancouver, and this gave us, ultimately, the Ceperley Children's Playground at Second Beach; I believe Mr. Ferguson stipulated in his bequest that the money should be used for a park for children."

#### Water - Gas

"Of course," remarked Mr. Gallagher on one occasion, "You know that the charters for city services were granted, in some cases, before the incorporation of the city. For instance, the Coquitlam Water Works, pretty well all Westminster people, and the Capilano Water Works, pretty well all Victoria people, and the Gas Works charter, were all granted before the incorporation of the city. The first secretary of the Capilano Water Works was J. W. McFarland, who had been manager for Hugh Keefer, and afterwards was of Mahon, McFarland, and Mahon.

## The Granville Hotel - Tom Cyr "Long Bit" - "Short Bit" - 121/2c and 25c Liquor

"At Tom Cyr's 'Granville Hotel' on Water Street every guest was entitled to an eye-opener; had a drink coming to him before breakfast. The 'right' was not limited to Tom Cyr's; it was, in fact, the custom of the country.

"The practice was that, when a stranger went to a hotel, the first thing he did before going to his room was to go into the bar, and, at a convenient moment soon after, he would announce that he was a stranger and would 'the house' (all present in the bar) have a drink on him. One drink cost a 'short bit,' but you could buy six drinks for a 'long bit.' A 'short bit' was ten cents, a 'long bit' twenty-five cents. We had no nickles here for five or ten years after the incorporation: they were in the country, but not in British Columbia, and for years after the city was incorporated the miners coming down from the Cariboo would carry their scales and a poke of gold."

## REMINISCENCES OF DR. H. E. LANGIS, M.D.

of Canadian Pacific Railway construction medical service
January 5th, 1932.

## Reminiscences of a Pioneer Doctor, Dr. H. E. Langis

"Just adventure, that's why I came west; you know those were the days of 'Go west, young man,," said Dr. H. E. Langlis, now on a visit to his relatives at 1708 West 40th Avenue, Kerrisdale. Some twenty-two years ago he suffered terribly from rheumatism, and went to live at Parksville; the change cured him and he has remained there ever since. He is now seventy-four, and quite active and alert. One would have thought he was older—he seemed an elderly man thirty years ago, but he says his hair was white at thirty, a family trait. He is a bachelor and was formerly a partner of Simon J. Tunstall, M.D.; both were eminent and well known in their profession.

"There was no street called Granville Street until after the fire of 1886. The way, the best way, to get to the big trees on Georgia Street, so well known in photographs as a real estate office 'Vancouver Lots for Sale,' was to take a boat at Andy Linton's at the foot of Carrall Street, row to Spratt's Ark, walk up the skid road to where the tree stood on the site of where Charlie Queen afterwards built an hotel. I have walked up there, through the trees, before the fire; nothing to do of a Sunday afternoon, and had to go and explore the country; never went up purposefully to see the tree. I know where it stood; it stood just where Charlie Queen built his hotel.

"Spratt's Ark was at the foot of Burrard Street; the skid road slanted from there up to the Hotel Vancouver; ran diagonally. The John Morton-Brighouse clearing had just one shack. A man named Proctor, may be Porter—he married an Indian woman—was living in it. He was making spars for the British Admiralty about 1893 or 1894.

"In 1883 I was at Port Arthur, in charge of a division (as Medical Officer on construction); I reached Victoria on 15th July, 1884. British Columbia was pretty small in those days; about three thousand in Victoria; at Port Moody about one hundred and twenty-five. I was up at Yale for quite a time, then they all came down and settled in Yaletown, up around Drake Street.

"I remember walking on the wharf at Port Moody with the Hon. Adolphe Chapleau; that wharf, and the (Neeping?) hotel at Fort William was one of the scandals of the C.P.R. construction. The government built the C.P.R. and they sent iron piles to build the wharf all the way from England, around the Horn; some may be there yet. The hotel at Fort William and the Port Moody wharf were items in the Pacific scandal; enormous waste of money; cost Sir John A. Macdonald defeat; Mackenzie beat him.

"Sam Greer was done out of his land; the government gave everything to the C.P.R.; even the Granville townsite.

"The squatters fought, but there was little they could do; some of them had to get out for the C.P.R. 'Jimmy' Orr, the member of parliament—his place was two or three lots west of the corner, on the north side of Cordova Street, about where Woodward's Garage is—they pulled his buildings down as fast as he could build them.

The prettiest little house in Granville, before the fire, belonged to Gillespie, the logging boss; it was on the south side of Cordova, between Abbott and Carrall, next to Joe Mannion; Sullivan's was across the street opposite.

"The 'C.P.R. Hotel' on Hastings Street was just a name; McPherson had it, and a license; the C.P.R. had nothing to do with it; no interest.

### The Great Fire of 1886 - Dr. Langis Skeleton

"I was away at the time of the fire; in New Orleans, from April or May, 1886, to January 1887. I heard of the fire in New Orleans.

"My (medical) skeleton was that of a Swede who had hanged himself over back of Moodyville about two years before; he was buried on Deadman's Island; that was where we had got the skeleton found after the fire under my office. They used to bury people on Deadman's Island, and Brockton Point, too; where the gun is: there was no cemetery which I can recall on the north side, near Moodyville. Several whites were buried on Deadman's Island; McCartney, one of three brothers; he had the drug store on the corner of Abbott Street, south west corner, on the street. His child was buried on Deadman's Island.

"I went over to Deadman's Island in April, 1886, and at the time of the fire the skeleton was in McCartney's store; after the fire they picked it up in the ashes, and took it to the morgue. And do you know what I am told they said when they picked it up, 'Poor fellow, he must have been sick before he died; his back is all wired together.

"I don't know how many were burned in the fire. We had no coroner in Granville; the district coroner was Charlie Hughes, at New Westminster. My recollection is that the dead were buried in New Westminster; perhaps the coroner's records over there would show.

"I have forgotten. There was a little wooden building on the corner of Hastings and Abbott Streets, before the fire, right opposite Woodward's.

"The only man I recall being burned to death in the fire was Faucets; he was a soda water man; and then there was a painter, whose name I forget. I was away in New Orleans.

## The Smallpox Scare

"Oh, yes, I should say it was a scare in 1893; we had thirty-two cases of smallpox, sixteen of them at Cedar Cove and sixteen at Deadman's Island. I was in charge at Cedar Cove, and lost two; one was a woman; she was dying when she reached the hospital. The other was a man who volunteered; they said he had had the smallpox and was immune, but he drank, and died. The people were so scared they would not let the Victoria boats land at the C.P.R. wharf, and the passengers had to land at Hastings and walk back. The first case came from Victoria.

### The First Hospital

"Mr. Gallagher is not quite correct about the first hospital; it was not quite in the angle of Alexander and Powell Streets, but on the north side, between Campbell Avenue and Hawk Avenue. The second hospital was a frame building facing on Pender Street, between Cambie and Beatty Streets. It was opened, I think, in 1890, and pulled down when they built the Rotary Clinic.

"Gardner Johnson did not hurt his leg in the fire—he broke his leg doing chain work on the survey gang with L. A. Hamilton.

"My records? I destroyed them, before I went to Parksville.

"The first telephone? That was in George Black's meat shop in front of the old jail on Water Street."



#### WHERE IS IT?

The earliest known portrayal of a scene on the western mainland shore of Canada. It is in the City of Vancouver, was painted by an officer of H.M.S. "Ganges" in 1861, and depicts jacktars from the wooden warship helping Indians to drag heavy fish nets ashore. A Naval officer sits watching in the lower corner on right and before him stands an Indian with paddle. Indian women are squatted before the two huts, a creek mouth is in the lower right hand corner, and big rocks are at the far end of the beach. Its location is known. As a test of your skill at identification, would you care to inform the Editor by what name it is now known.







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